

MARVEL

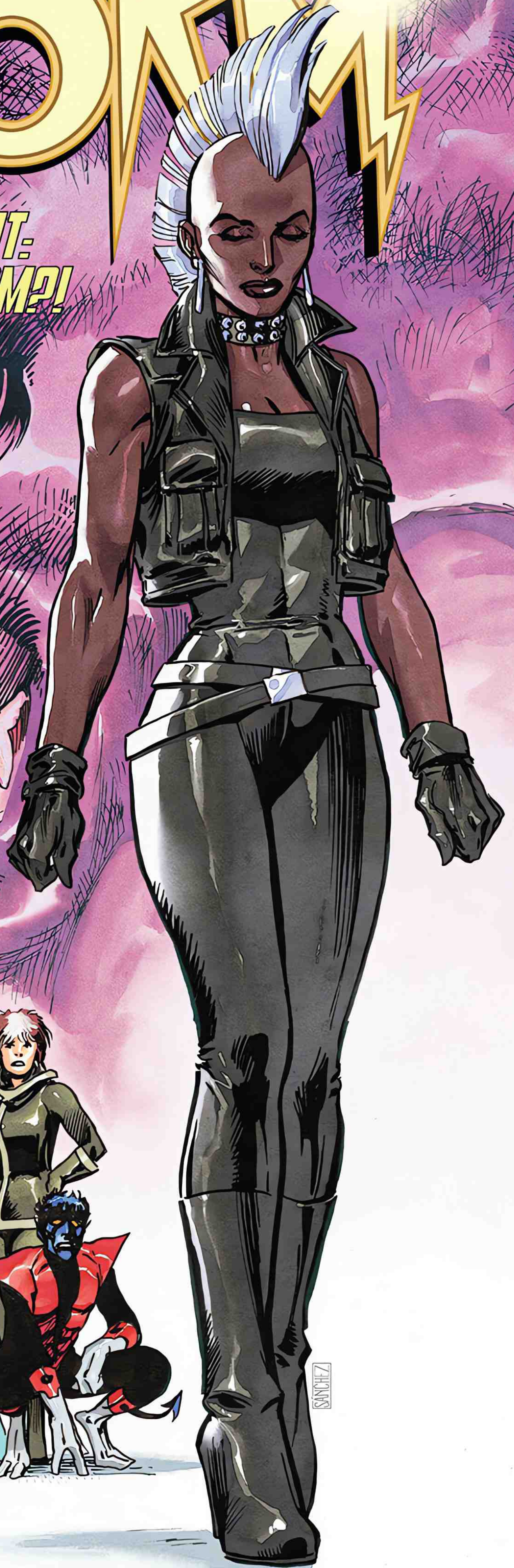


4

APPROVED
BY THE
MUTANT
CODE
AUTHORITY

STORM

*EXIT:
STORM?!*



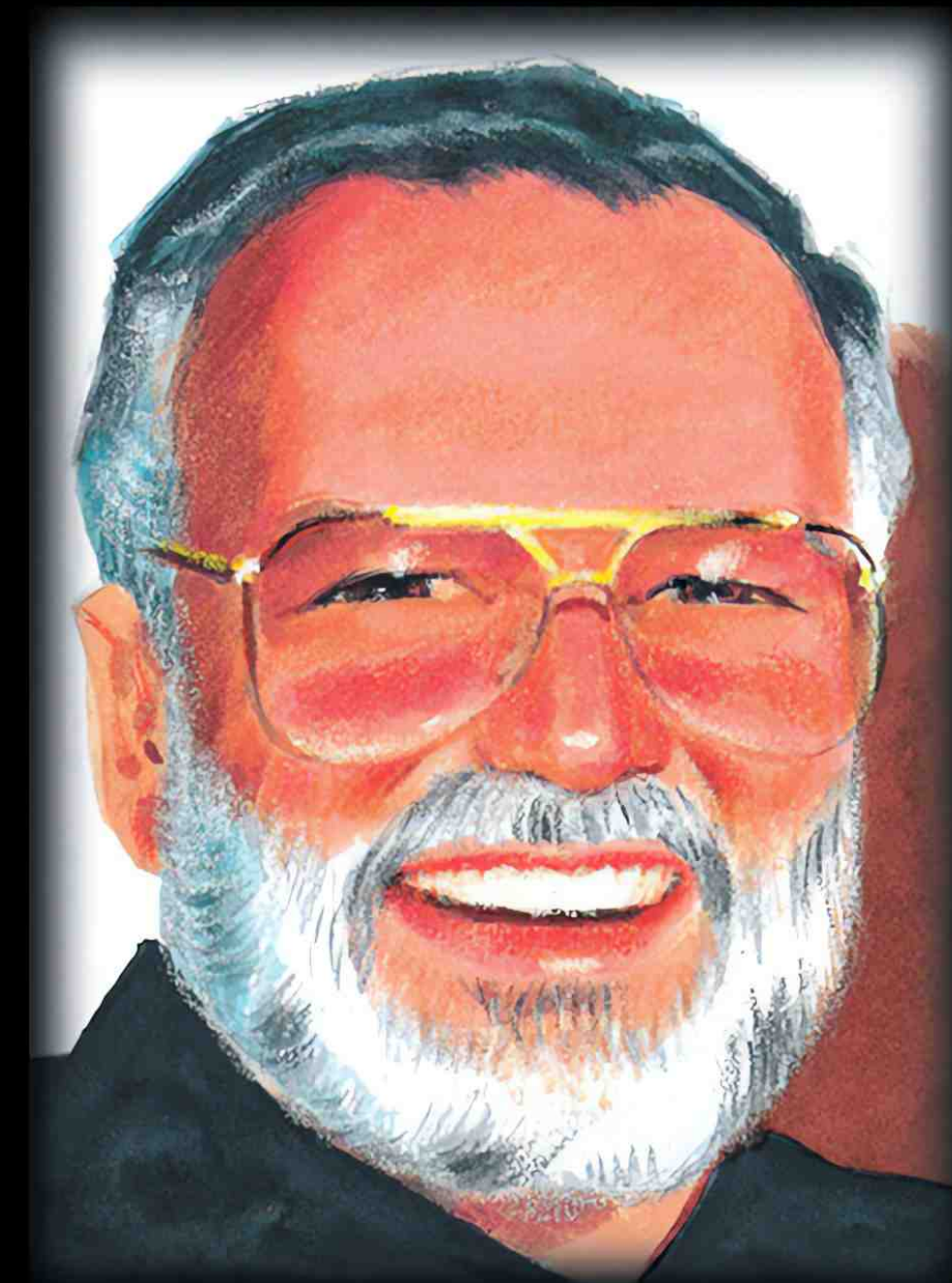
NOCENTI
BORGES
DALHOUSE

SANCHEZ



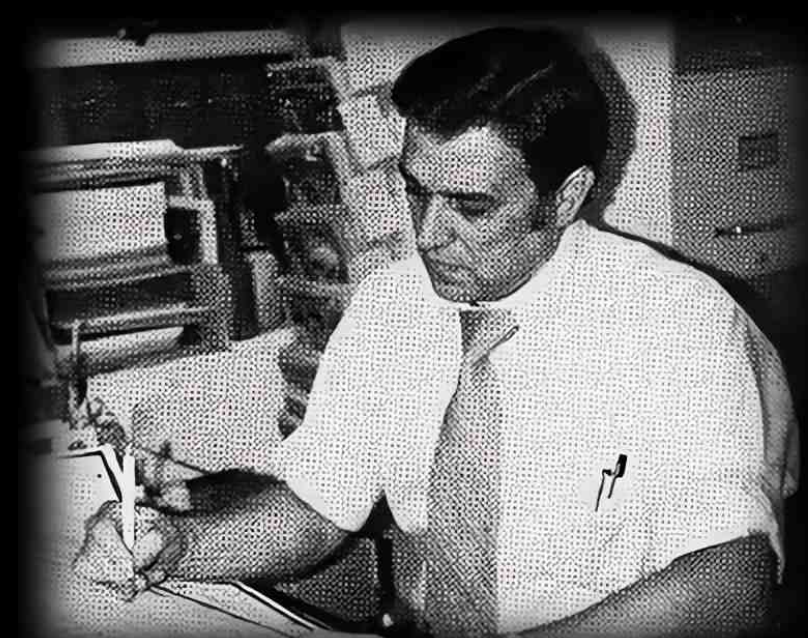
John Romita

1930 – 2023



Marvel mourns the passing of comic-book artist John Romita Sr., whose work on *Amazing Spider-Man* helped make the character a worldwide sensation. In his work as Marvel's art director, he designed the Punisher and Wolverine and served as mentor for countless artists during his decades-long tenure with the company.

Romita had a profound effect on everyone he met at Marvel. He was always kind and warm and served as an inspiration to all who knew him or followed his work. Romita helped build the Marvel Universe as we know it, and he will be greatly missed.



"John Romita Sr. was an incomparable artist who brought so many iconic Marvel characters to life on the page and set the tone and look of Marvel's comics for decades. His version of Spider-Man has inspired so many of us at Marvel Studios. Our thoughts are with his family and the generations of artists and fans who fell in love with the characters he drew."

— KEVIN FEIGE

"I was recently able to fawn over some of John Romita Sr.'s original Spider-Man pages, and the word that kept popping into my mind as I marveled over his linework was 'timeless.' His style was such a departure from what had come before, which John did say made him nervous, but one that came to define the look of Peter, Spider-Man, MJ, Gwen and everyone else in their orbit. And the same was true for every Marvel character John designed, penciled and inked. Whether as an artist or art director, John's work influenced generations of comic book artists. With his passing, the comic industry loses a true legend, but just like his artwork, his legacy will remain timeless."

— C.B. CEBULSKI

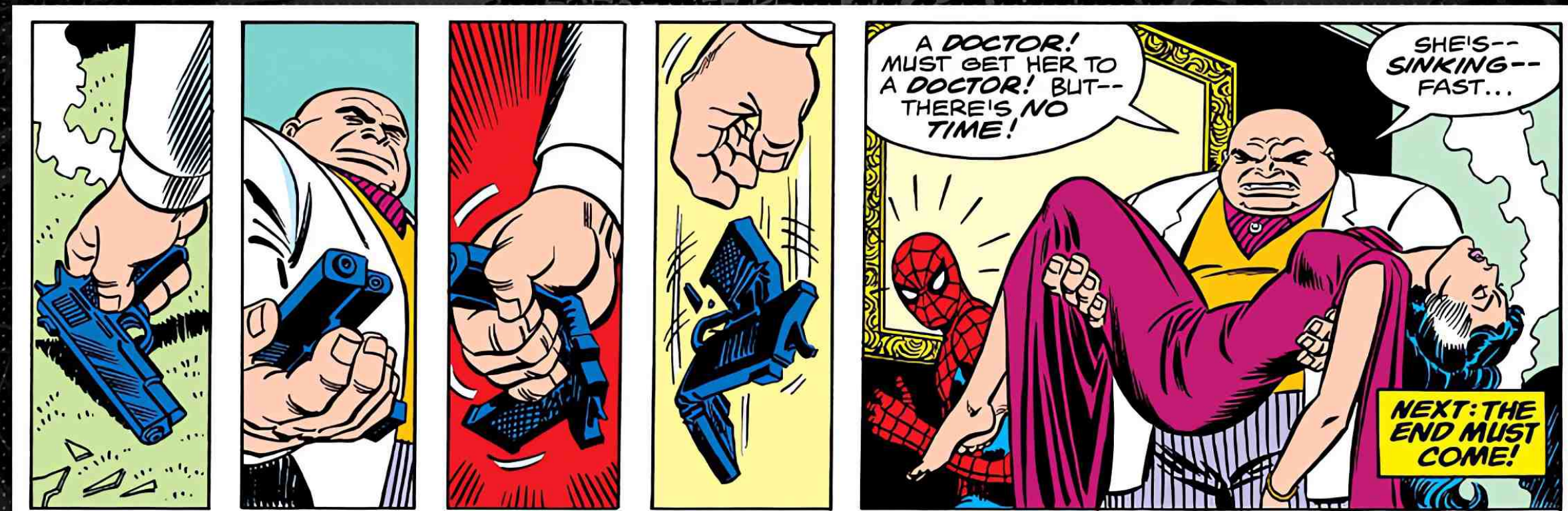
"When you close your eyes and picture Spider-Man, you're probably picturing a John Romita Sr. Spider-Man. From his debut of the character in *Amazing Spider-Man* #39, the subsequent fifty issues of art, more than a hundred covers and the work he did on the newspaper strip, John defined Spidey for generations of people around the world. That would be enough for anyone else, but John was also an excellent art director, a fantastic father, a doting grandfather and a gentleman. All of us making Spider-Man comics, and Marvel Comics in general, work in his shadow and strive to live up to the example of the legend, 'laddy John Romita'."

— NICK LOWE



DECADES OF AMAZING WORK

John Romita wore many hats at Marvel. His most famous contribution was his run on *Amazing Spider-Man*, including the above cover to the series' landmark fiftieth issue. His association with the character would include drawing the cover of the famed wedding of Peter Parker and Mary Jane Watson, *Amazing Spider-Man Annual* #21, seen opposite top right. With Stan Lee, he started the Spider-Man newspaper strip, including the sequence with Kingpin from Sept. 25, 1977, seen opposite center. Behind the scenes, Romita was responsible for designing many of Marvel's most famous characters. At bottom opposite are Romita's costume designs for Black Widow and Wolverine.



"One of the highlights of my career was working with John Romita Sr. I couldn't believe that my 25-year-old self was working and interacting with him, and what made it even better was that he was so considerate and kind – something that has stuck with me ever since, among many other memories with him. It was one of the rare moments where you meet one of your heroes and he exceeds your expectations in every possible way.

His contributions to Marvel's pantheon and culture are immense, and he will be sorely missed. He was a great and kind man who truly made the world a better place. My deepest condolences to Virginia, Johnny and the Romita family."

— DAN BUCKLEY

ORORO MUNROE

HAS BEEN A GODDESS, A THIEF, AND A MEMBER OF AND LEADER OF THE X-MEN. WITH HER MUTANT ABILITY TO COMMAND THE WEATHER BOLSTERED BY HER TOP-NOTCH FIGHTING SKILLS, SHE'S A FORMIDABLE POWERHOUSE LIKE NO OTHER. SHE IS...



From appearance to demeanor, STORM's gone through some changes. Moreover, her powers have been acting erratically, culminating in an encounter with a strange creature, who seemingly rescued her from her own storm, leaving her in doubt of her impact on the world.

Meanwhile, Storm's new relationship with an inventor named TRAVIS has caused friction with the team. KITTY PRYDE investigated his background, discovering their old enemy MYSTIQUE is embedded as his business associate. Separately, LOGAN confronted Travis about his intentions with Storm, prompting her to quit the X-Men.

Before she could depart, the strange creature returned, identifying itself as BLOWBACK. Fearing that it was after Storm, the X-Men sent her away, attacking the creature with everything they had. In spite of their efforts, Blowback escaped, taking ROGUE with it. In the aftermath of the battle, Travis invited Storm to fly away with him to live in paradise...

BLOWBACK PART 4: THE ETERNITY COIL

ANN
NOCENTI
WRITER

GERALDO
BORGES
ARTIST

ANDREW
DALHOUSE
COLORIST

VC's ARIANA
MAHER
LETTERER

ALAN DAVIS &
ALEJANDRO SÁNCHEZ
COVER ARTISTS

STACIE ZUCKER
LOGO DESIGN

JAY BOWEN
PRODUCTION

DREW BAUMGARTNER
ASSISTANT EDITOR

MARK BASSO
EDITOR

JORDAN D. WHITE
SENIOR EDITOR

C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story takes place around the time frame of UNCANNY X-MEN #176.



"KITTY! WHERE'S
LOCKHEED?"

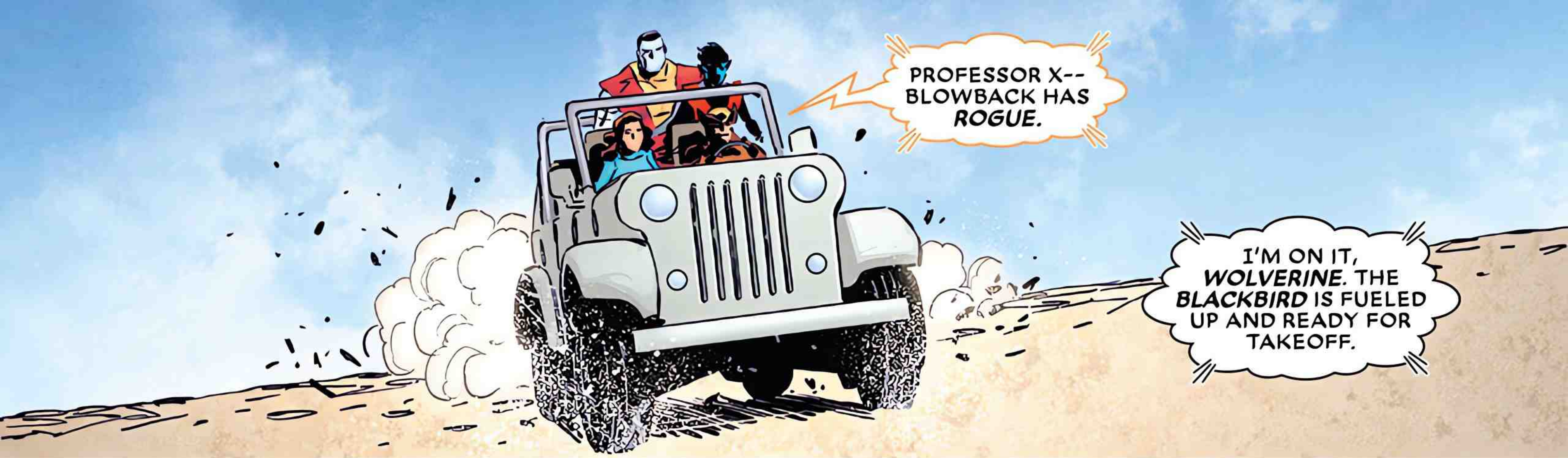
"TOOK TO
THE CHASE,
LOGAN."

"GUTSY DRAGON.
BLOWBACK'S FAST
AS THE WIND."

"WITHOUT **STORM**,
NONE OF US CAN
CATCH HIM."

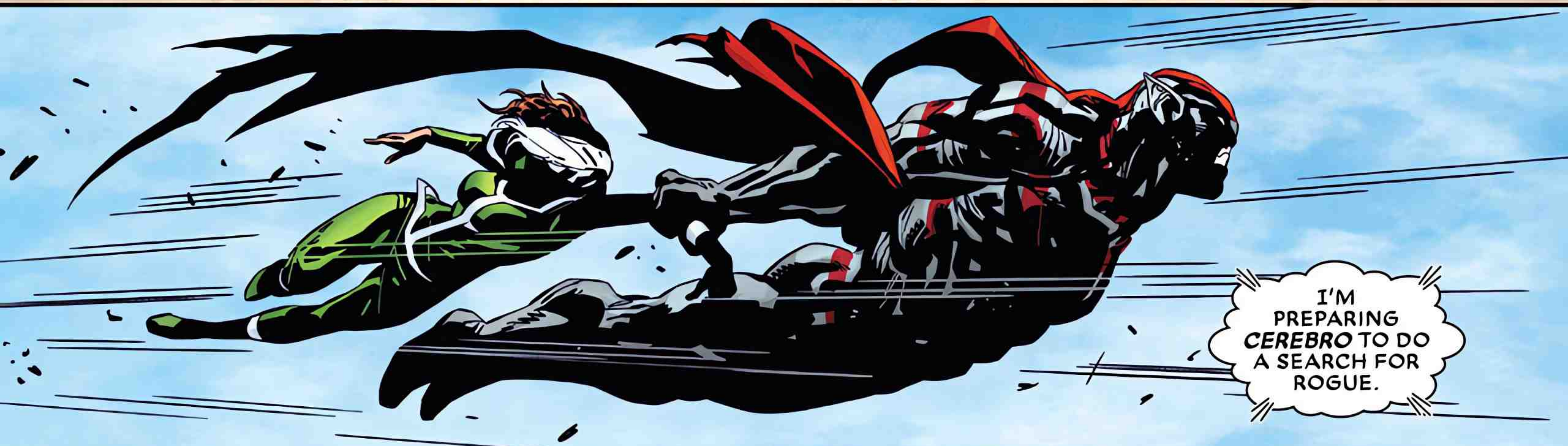
"BACK TO
THE MANSION,
X-MEN, FAST."

"WE'LL GRAB
THE **JET**."



PROFESSOR X--
BLOWBACK HAS
ROGUE.

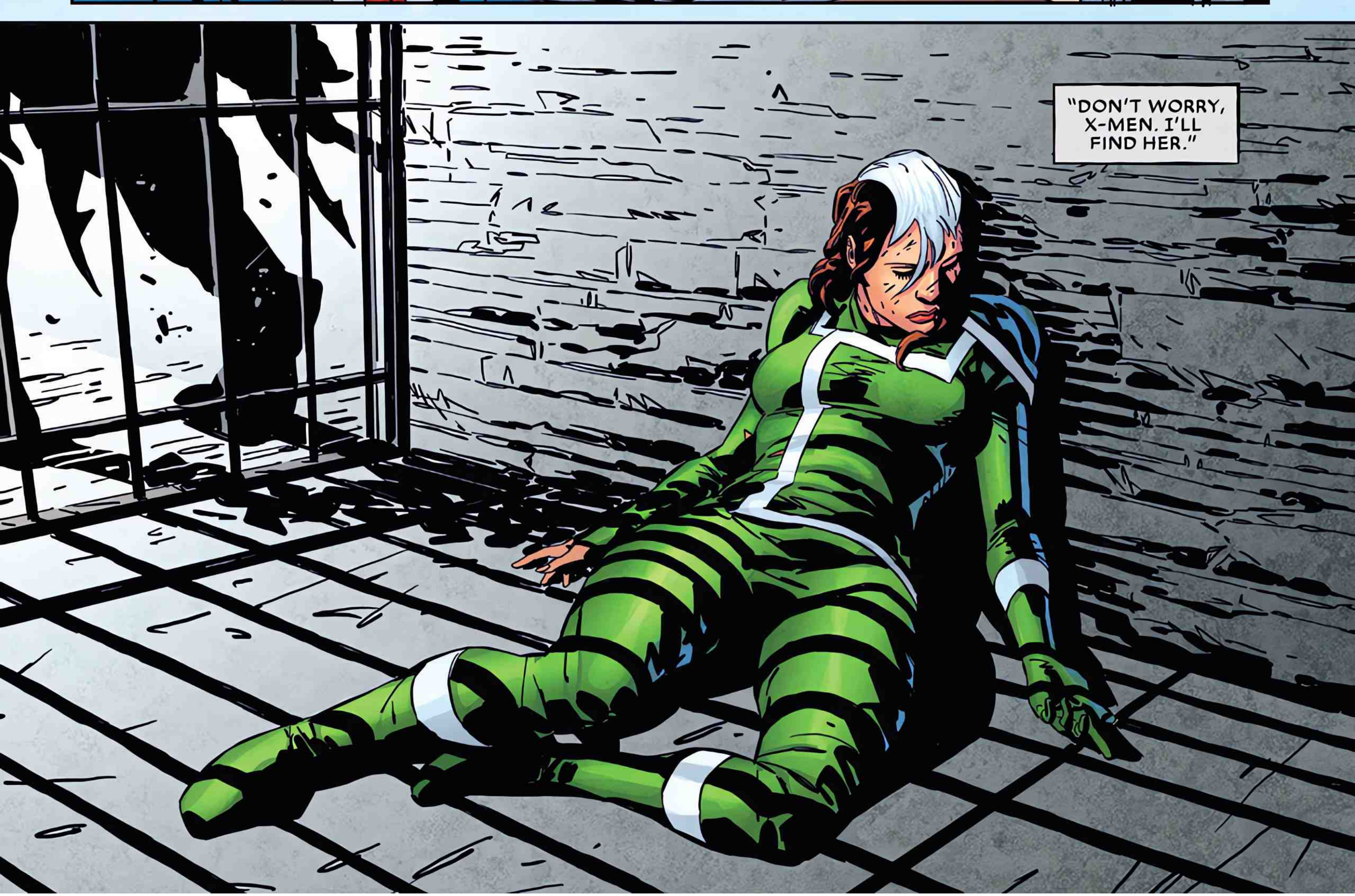
I'M ON IT,
WOLVERINE. THE
BLACKBIRD IS FUELED
UP AND READY FOR
TAKEOFF.



I'M
PREPARING
CEREBRO TO DO
A SEARCH FOR
ROGUE.



GET IN THE AIR,
FAST, LOGAN. I'LL
SEND COORDINATES
THE INSTANT
I LOCATE
HER.



"DON'T WORRY,
X-MEN. I'LL
FIND HER."

ELSEWHERE.

I SUPPOSEDLY
COME FROM A LONG
LINE OF SORCERESS
ROYALTY,
TRAVIS.

MY MOTHER
SAID MY GRAND-
MOTHER HAD THE
SAME WHITE HAIR
AND BLUE EYES
AS I.

SHE ONLY
SPOKE OF MY
GRANDMOTHER IN
WHISPERS. FAMILY
LEGENDS OF
HER SKILLS.

DID MY GRAND-
MOTHER CAST ANY
SPELLS OR PERFORM ANY
ELEMENTAL WEATHER
RITUALS?



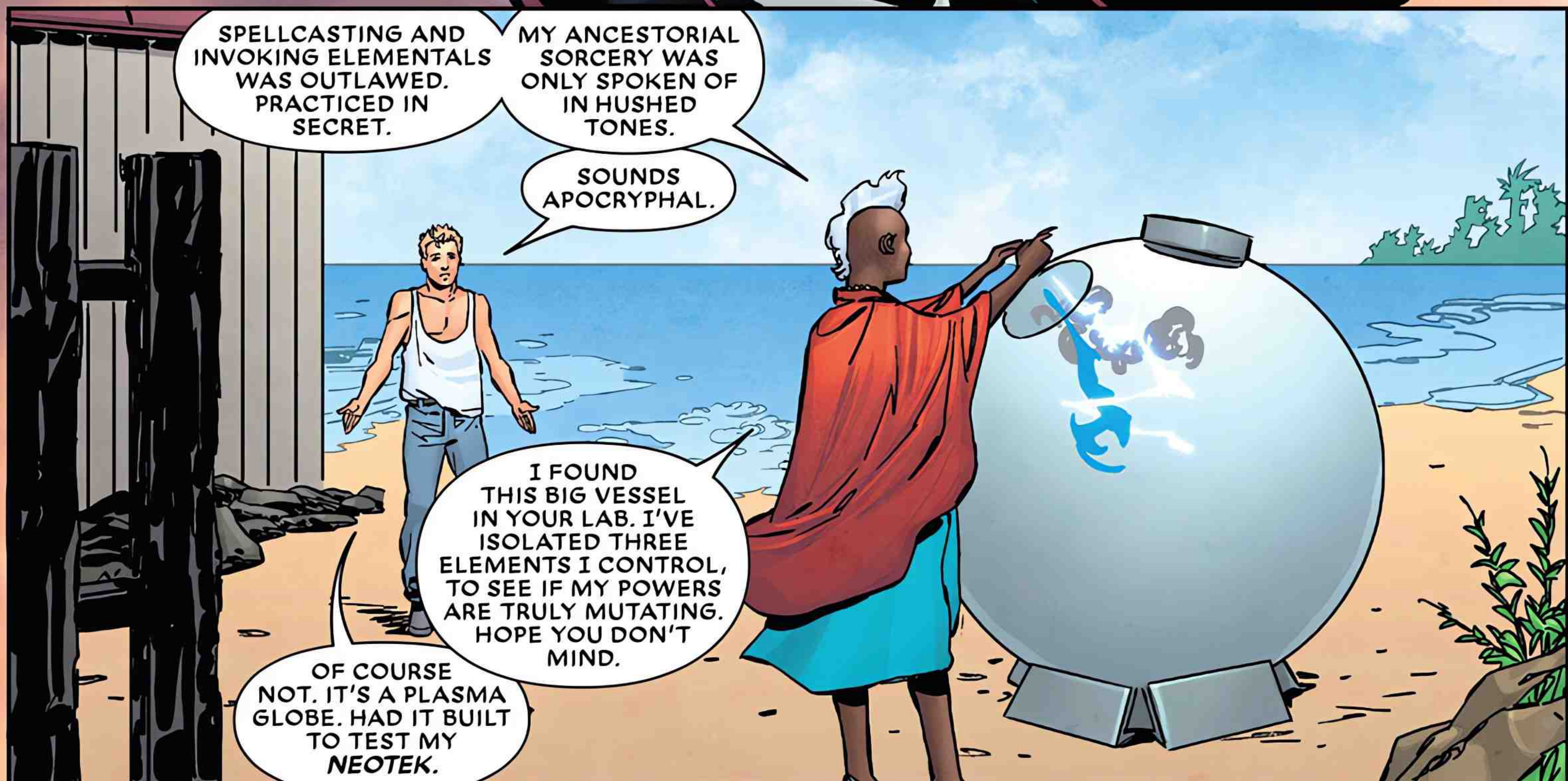
SPELLCASTING AND
INVOKING ELEMENTALS
WAS OUTLAWED.
PRACTICED IN
SECRET.

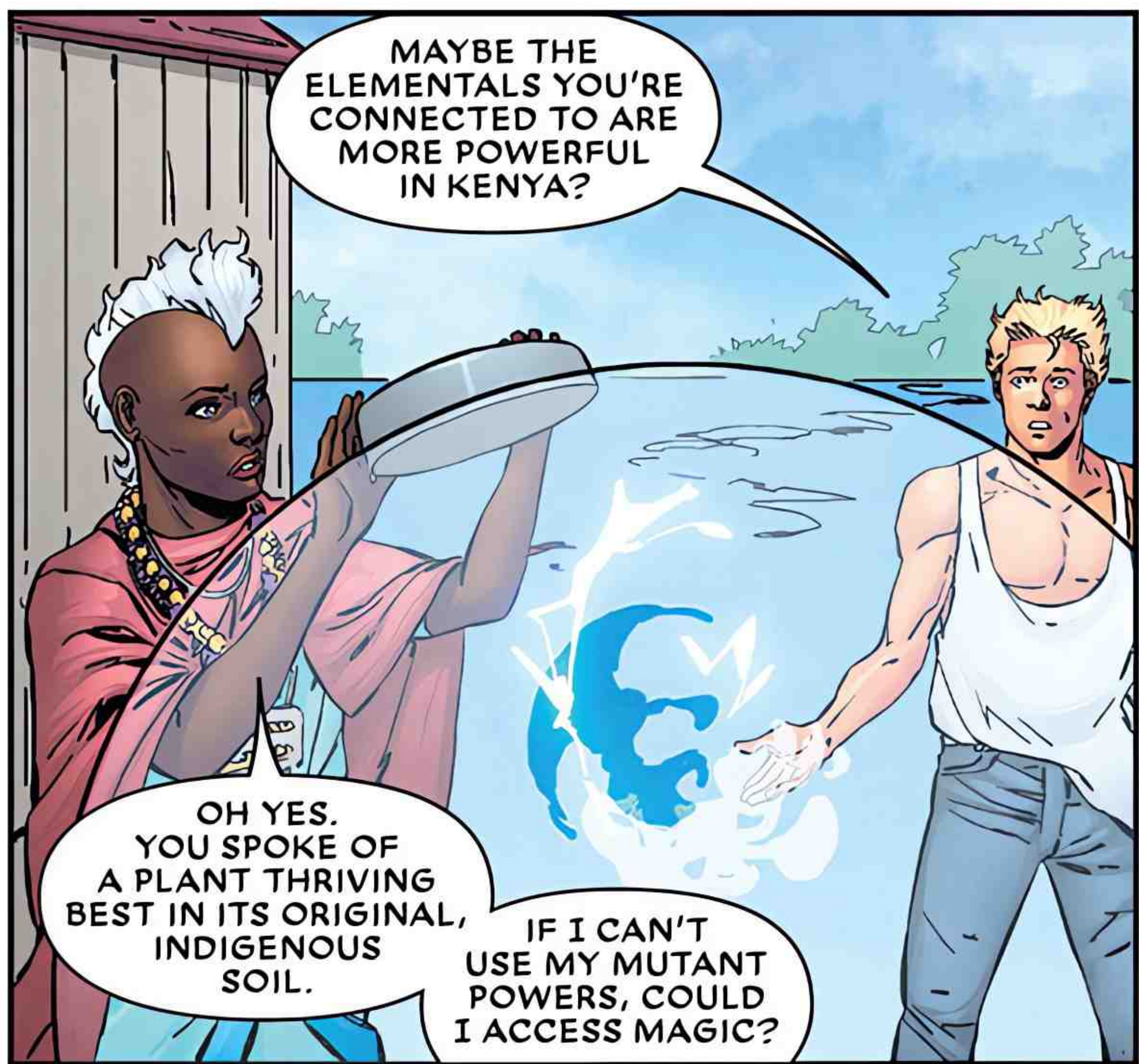
MY ANCESTORIAL
SORCERY WAS
ONLY SPOKEN OF
IN HUSHED
TONES.

SOUNDS
APOCRYPHAL.

I FOUND
THIS BIG VESSEL
IN YOUR LAB. I'VE
ISOLATED THREE
ELEMENTS I CONTROL,
TO SEE IF MY POWERS
ARE TRULY MUTATING.
HOPE YOU DON'T
MIND.

OF COURSE
NOT. IT'S A PLASMA
GLOBE. HAD IT BUILT
TO TEST MY
NEOTEK.

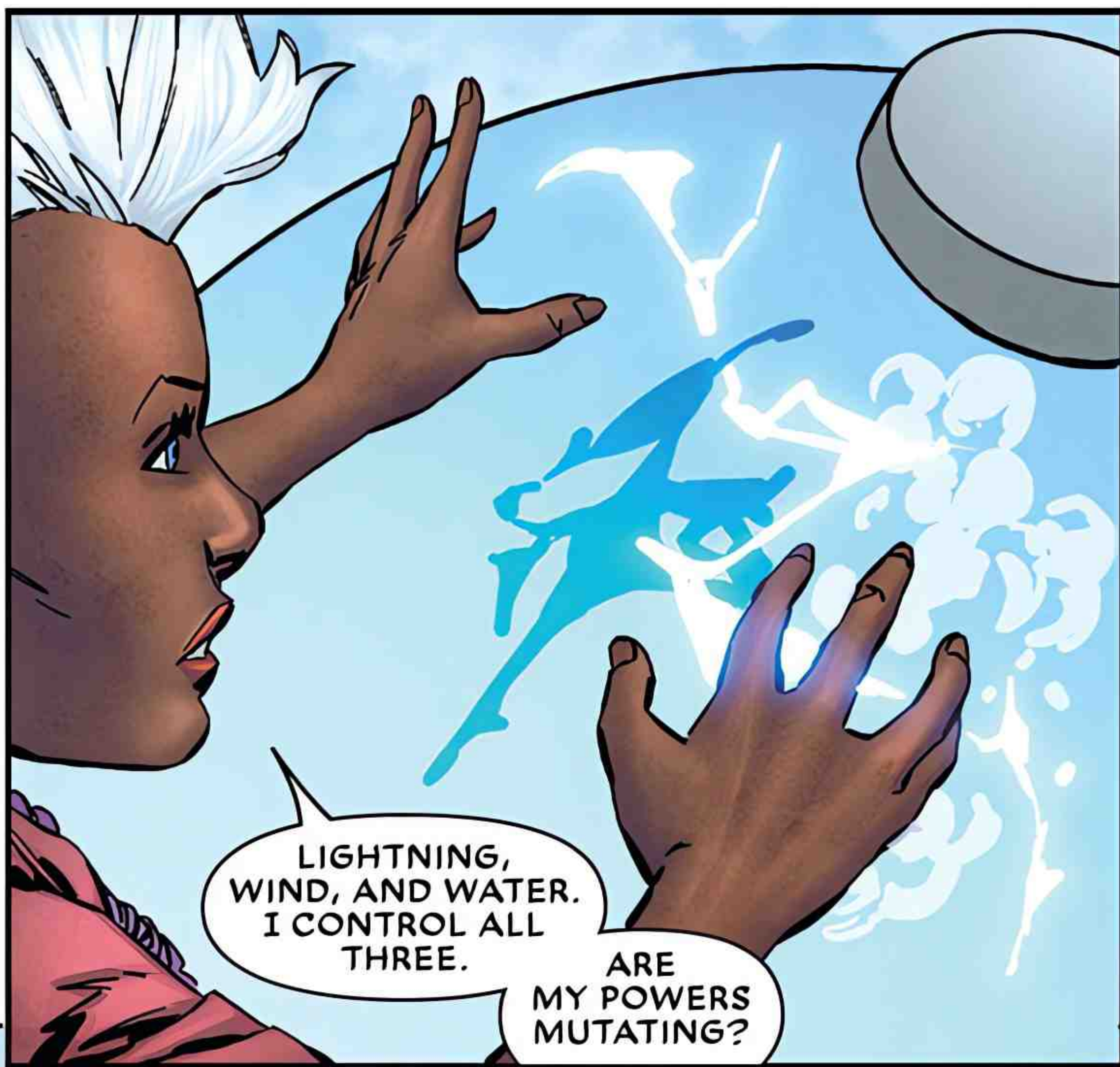




MAYBE THE
ELEMENTALS YOU'RE
CONNECTED TO ARE
MORE POWERFUL
IN KENYA?

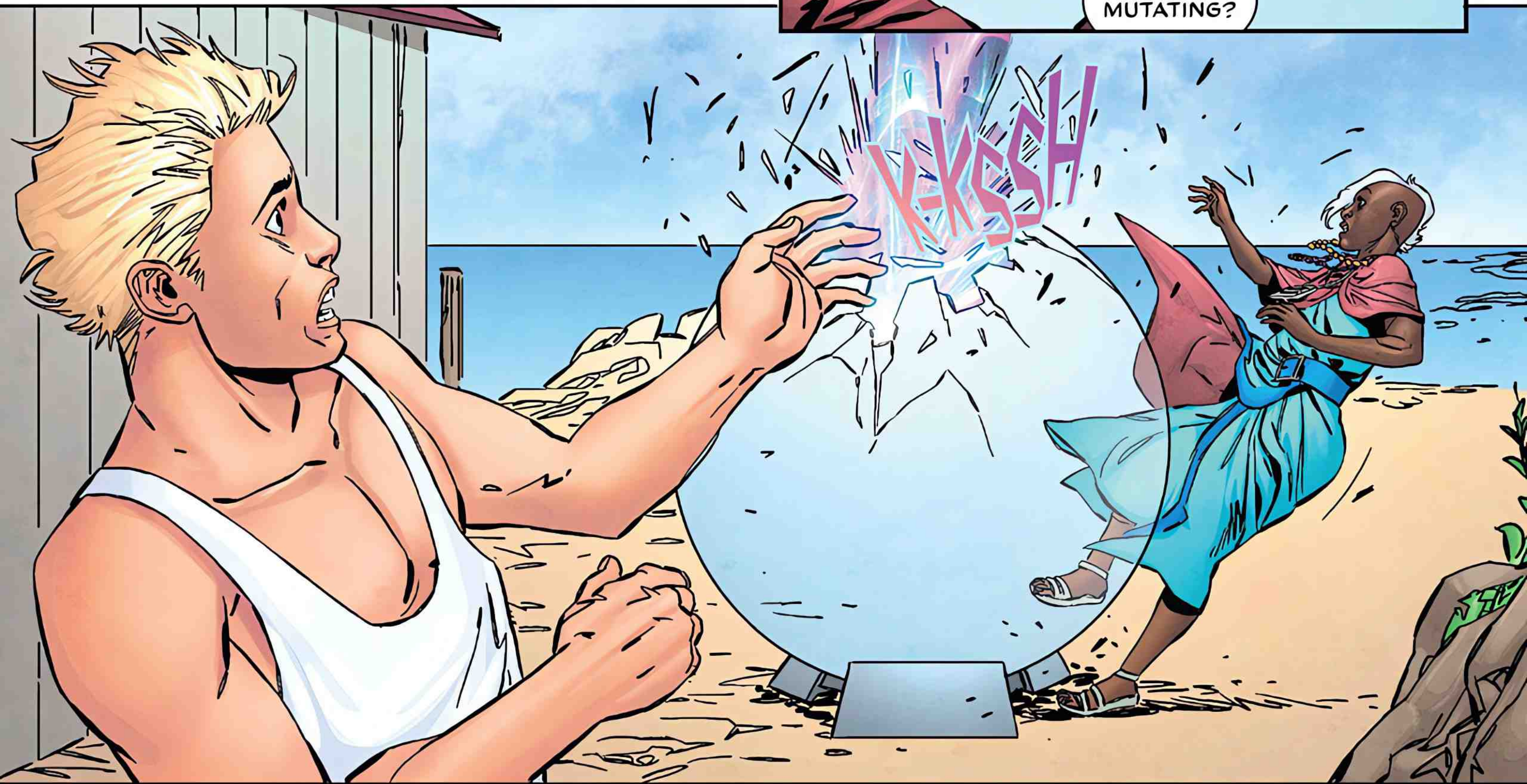
OH YES.
YOU SPOKE OF
A PLANT THRIVING
BEST IN ITS ORIGINAL,
INDIGENOUS
SOIL.

IF I CAN'T
USE MY MUTANT
POWERS, COULD
I ACCESS MAGIC?



LIGHTNING,
WIND, AND WATER.
I CONTROL ALL
THREE.

ARE
MY POWERS
MUTATING?



SOME ANSWER,
HUH? WHAT A
MESS I AM.

I ALWAYS
WONDERED HOW
YOU HELD UP YOUR
MOHAWK.

PUNKS NEED
LOTS OF GLUE AND
HAIR SPRAY.



SIMPLE. STATIC
ELECTRICITY. MY
BODY HUMS
WITH IT.

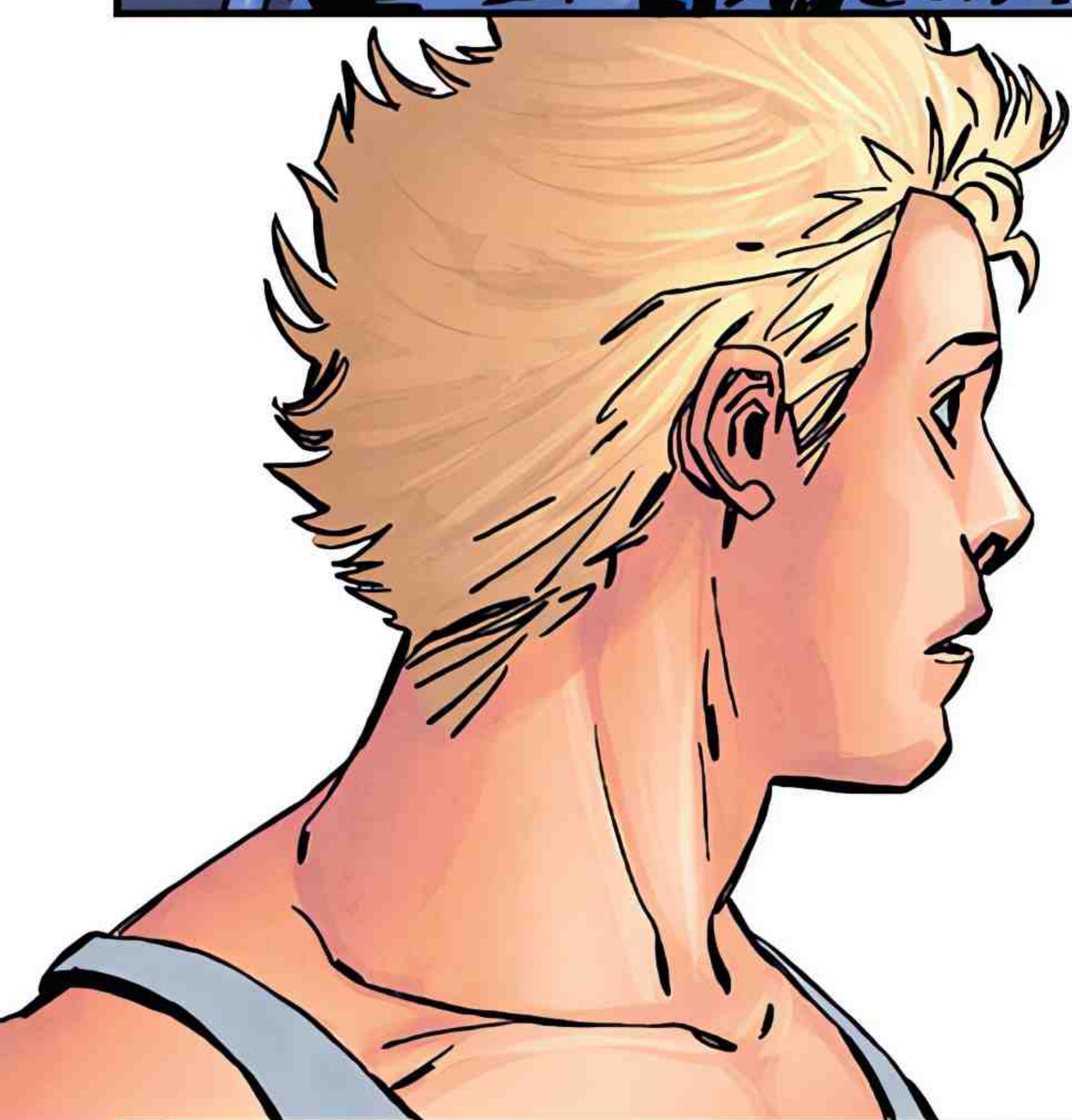
I DON'T
EVEN HAVE
TO THINK
ABOUT IT.



IF MY NEOTEK CAN ANALYZE YOUR SAMPLES, MAYBE I CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOUR POWERS.

I NOW HAVE YOUR ESSENCE IN A BOTTLE. SORRY. LITTLE JOKE.

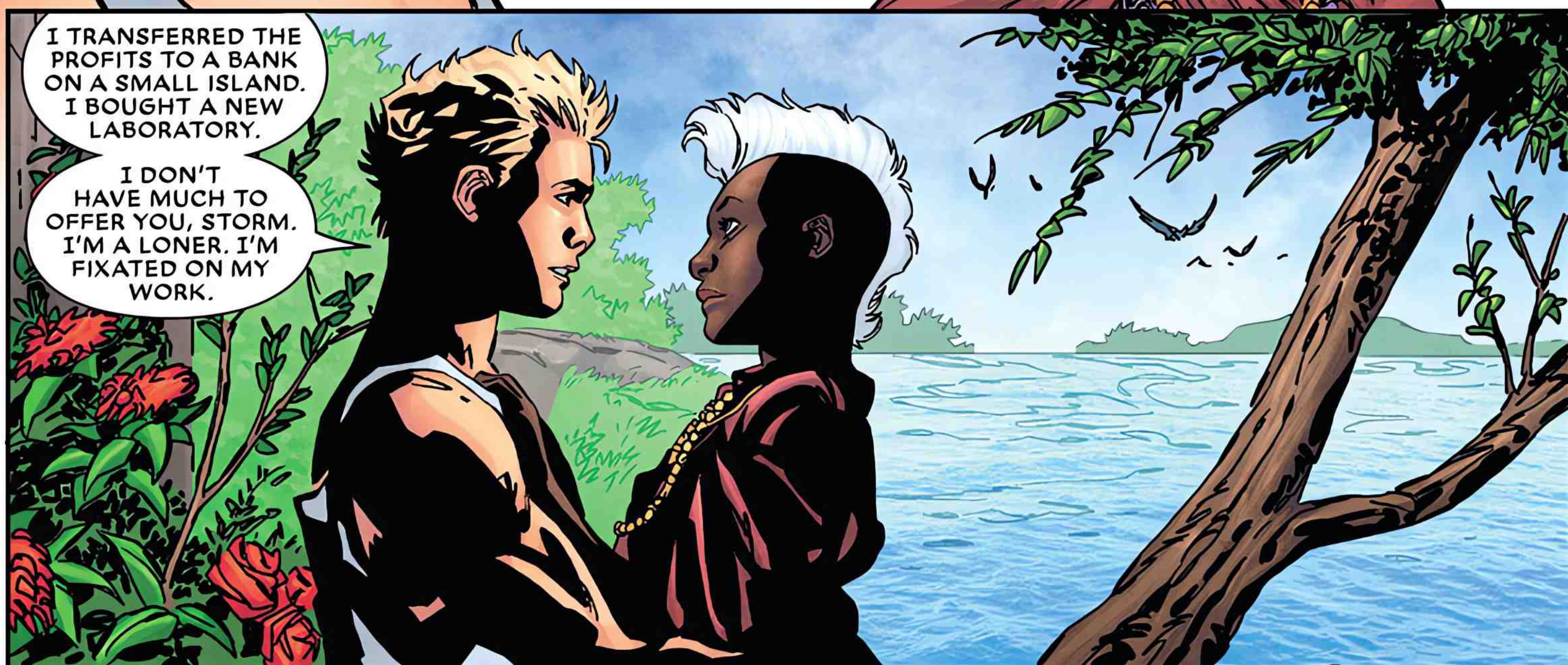
I LOVE IT, IT'S SWEET.



I HAVE ONE MORE MEETING, THEN MY JET LEAVES. COME WITH ME, STORM?

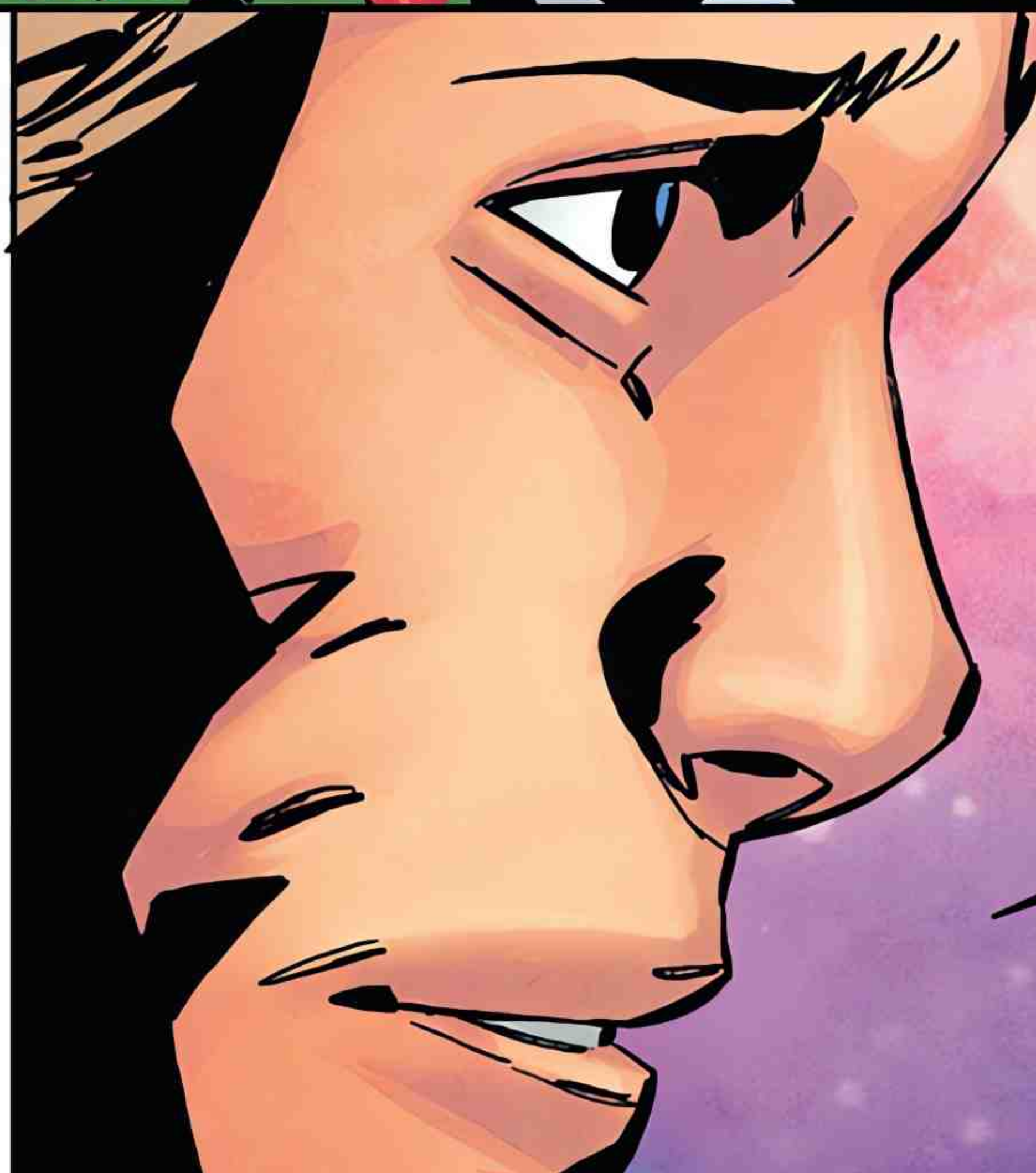


ALREADY? I THOUGHT I'D HAVE MORE TIME.



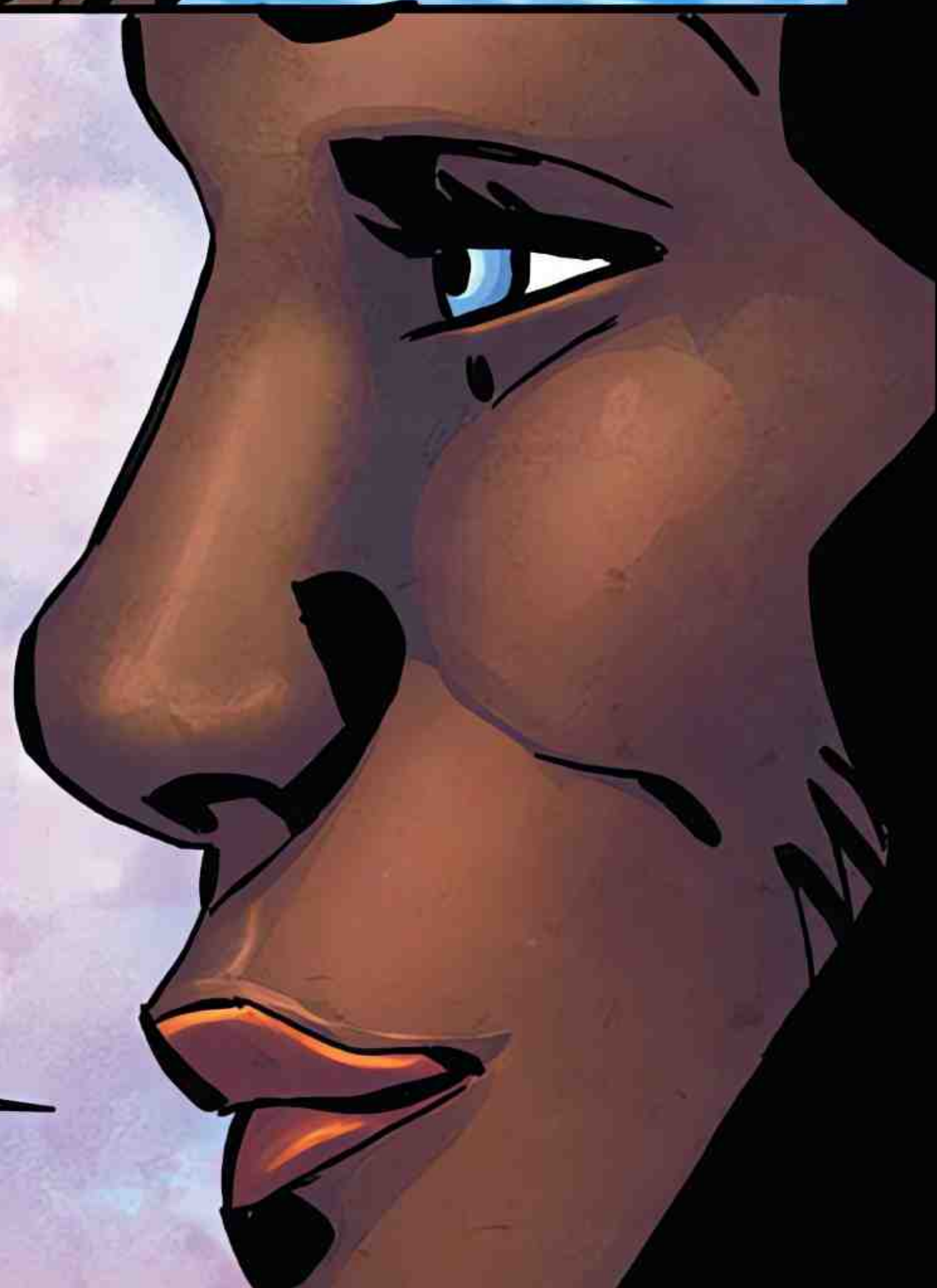
I TRANSFERRED THE PROFITS TO A BANK ON A SMALL ISLAND. I BOUGHT A NEW LABORATORY.

I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO OFFER YOU, STORM. I'M A LONER. I'M FIXATED ON MY WORK.



VERY FEW WOMEN CAN DEAL WITH A MAN OBSESSED WITH THE CLIMATE AND HIS WORK.

EXCEPT PERHAPS A WOMAN WITH THE SAME OBSESSIONS?





YOU CAN BE WHOEVER YOU WANT WITH ME. SORCERESS, BIKER, WIND-RIDER, PUNK, GODDESS, THIEF, WHOEVER YOU WISH.

WHAT DID THE ENTITY MEAN WHEN IT SAID I AM MY OWN **SHADOW**?



MANY CULTURES BELIEVE WE ALL HAVE A DOUBLE. ABORIGINALS BELIEVE OUR DREAM SELF IS AS IMPORTANT AS OUR WAKING SELF.

IS THERE ANY WAY I COULD BE MANIFESTING THIS **BLOWBACK** ENTITY?

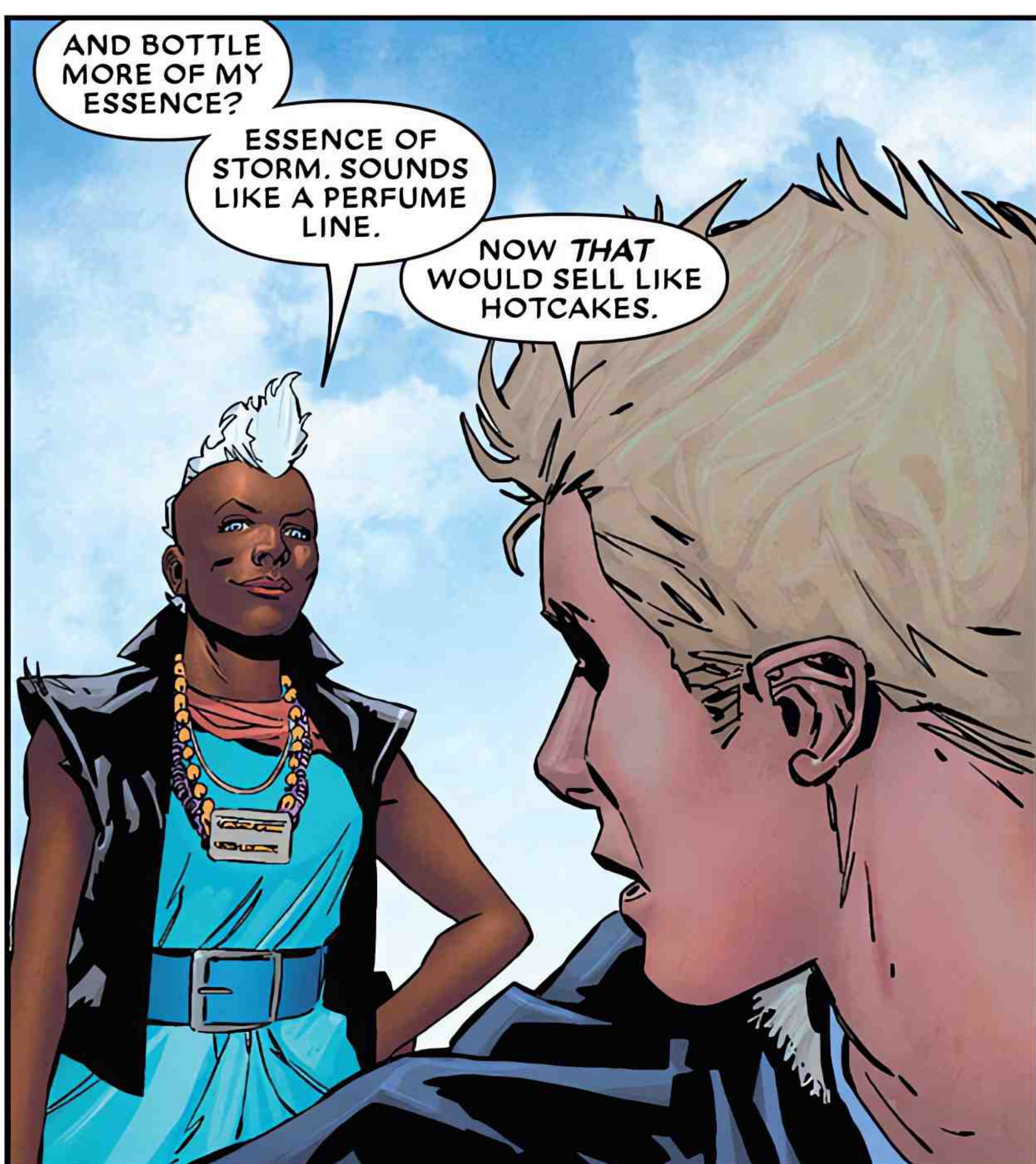
LIKE HOW YOUR SORCERESS ANCESTORS CALLED ON POWERFUL SPIRITS?



EXACTLY. WHAT DID **ROGUE** SAY WHEN SHE TOUCHED IT?

SHE SHOUTED YOUR NAME. I ASSUME BECAUSE THE CREATURE IS AFTER YOU.

BOLT THE DOOR, OKAY? I'LL LET THE X-MEN KNOW YOU'RE SAFE. AND IF YOU FLY AWAY WITH ME, WE CAN TEST YOU FURTHER.



AND BOTTLE MORE OF MY ESSENCE?

ESSENCE OF STORM. SOUNDS LIKE A PERFUME LINE.

NOW *THAT* WOULD SELL LIKE HOTCAKES.





SOMEWHERE
IN THE WOODS.

SORRY
ABOUT THE
SHACKLES.

YOU
WERE WILD.
UNCONTROLLABLE.
BLOWBACK
POUNDED
YOU.

YOU CAN
BREAK THE
CHAINS. YOU
CAN ATTACK
ME.



BUT YOU
ARE **SAFER** WITH
ME. I RESCUED YOU
FROM THAT
BEAST.

AH MADE MY
MOVE, **MYSTIQUE**.
AH LEFT YOU FOR
THE X-MEN.

AND
HOW'S THAT
GOING?



SLOW. THEY
DON'T TRUST ME.
YET. **KITTY'S** THE
ONLY ONE WHO'S
EVEN TRIED.

IT SEEMS
BLOWBACK HAS
AMPLIFIED STORM'S
POWERS INTO SOME-
THING DESTRUCTIVE.
YOU'RE NOT SAFE
WITH THE
X-MEN.

AH'M NOT
SAFE WITH YOU.
AH'M NOT SAFE
ANYWHERE.

WHAM



"WHEN I FOUND YOU,
DESTINY PROPHESIZED IT
WAS FATE THAT BROUGHT
US TOGETHER, ROGUE.

"WE RAISED YOU
LIKE OUR OWN
DAUGHTER.

"I KNOW YOU, LITTLE ANNA
MARIE OF MISSISSIPPI, FAR
BETTER THAN ANY OF THE
X-MEN DO."



ALL THE MINDS YOU DRAIN WITH YOUR TOUCH. A FLOOD OF OTHER PEOPLE'S MEMORIES. NEVER KNOWING WHICH ONES ARE YOURS.

SO? US SOUTHERN GALS LEARN HOW TO GLIDE OVER TROUBLES WITH A JULEP AND A JOKE.



DON'T TRY TO DRAIN MY MIND.

I AM RAVEN DARKHÖLME AND HAVE BEEN THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

A MULTIPLICITY OF VOICES. HUMANS CALL IT MADNESS. YOU AND I KNOW BETTER.

Y'ALL MIGHT GET RUFFLED BY A RIOT OF VOICES. AH CALL THAT A PARTY.

I KNOW IT'S NO PARTY FOR YOU. YOU'VE TOLD ME HOW THE VOICES OF OTHERS LINGER AND MESS WITH YOUR OWN THOUGHTS...



WHO SPIT IN YOUR GRITS THIS MORNING? WHAT'S REALLY GOT YOU IN A TWIST?

WHY DON'T Y'ALL JUST TELL ME THE TRUTH?



DESTINY AND I MISS YOU. WE WANT YOU TO COME BACK.

AH, NOW THE TRUTH COMES OUT. EVEN TOUGH OL' HARD-HEARTED RAVEN GETS HURT.

AH WOULD LIKE TO BE BACK WITH YOU, WHERE AH KNOW AH'M LOVED. BUT Y'ALL NEVER STOP LYIN'.



PROFESSOR X KNOWS WHAT'S COMING--THE ANNIHILATION OF MUTANTKIND. AND YET HE DOES NOTHING.

HE SHOULD BUILD YOU AN ISLAND FORTRESS. YOU AREN'T SAFE WITH HIM.

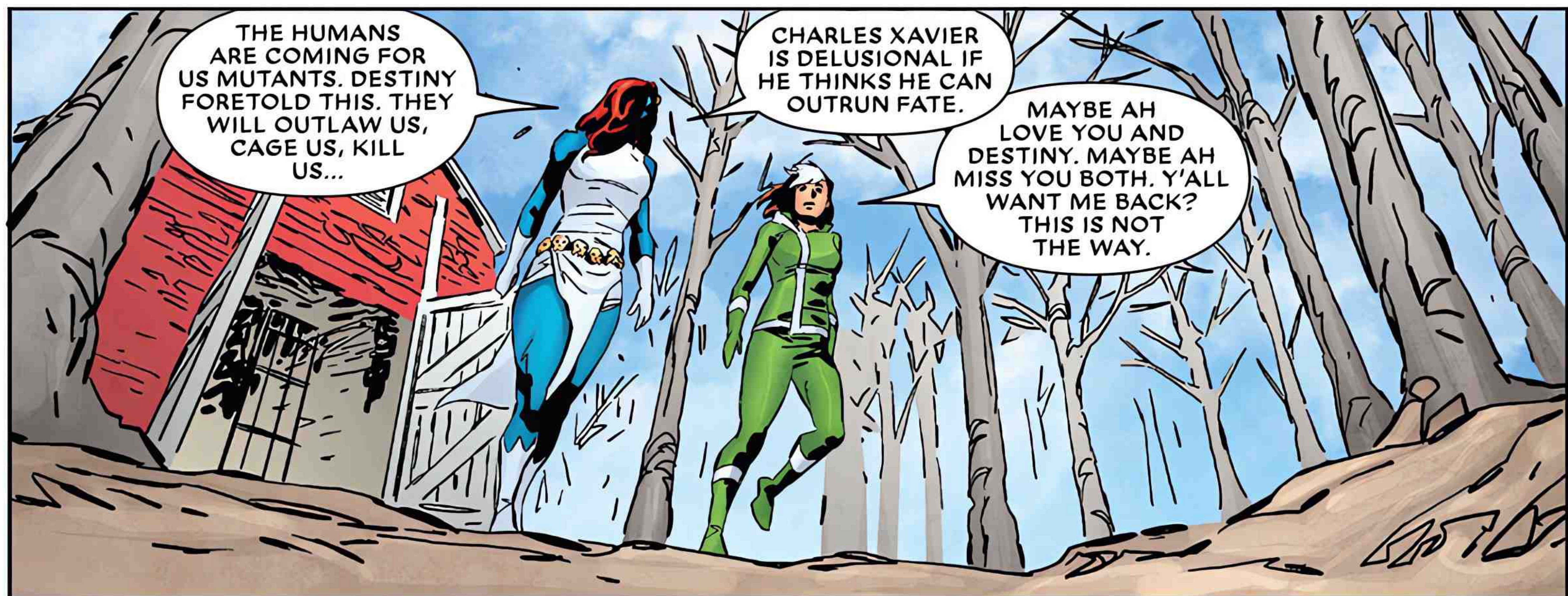
AH'M NOT SAFE WITH YOU. YOUR TALK IS LETHAL. WORDS SHARP AS DAGGERS.



THE PROFESSOR IS HELPING ME UNTANGLE THE MESS IN MAH MIND.

HE'S A TELEPATH. HIS PSYCHIC FINGERS ARE ALL UP IN YOUR SECRETS.

AH TRUST HIM. AH DON'T KNOW WHY BUT AH DO. MORE THAN AH TRUST YOU.



THE HUMANS ARE COMING FOR US MUTANTS. DESTINY FORETOLD THIS. THEY WILL OUTLAW US, CAGE US, KILL US...

CHARLES XAVIER IS DELUSIONAL IF HE THINKS HE CAN OUTRUN FATE.

MAYBE AH LOVE YOU AND DESTINY. MAYBE AH MISS YOU BOTH. Y'ALL WANT ME BACK? THIS IS NOT THE WAY.



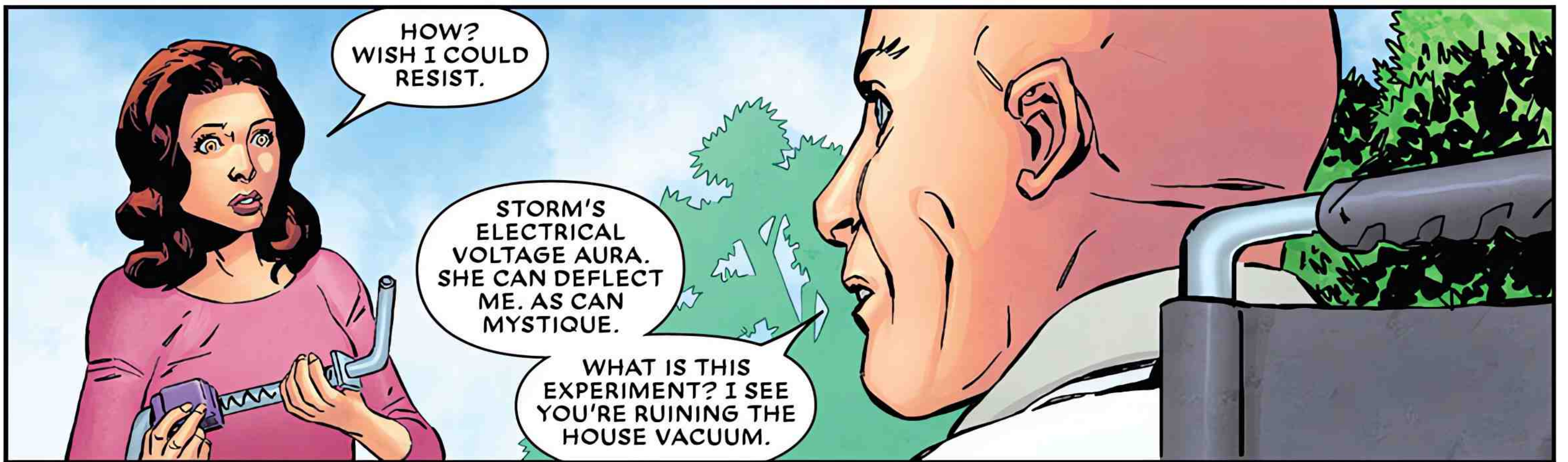
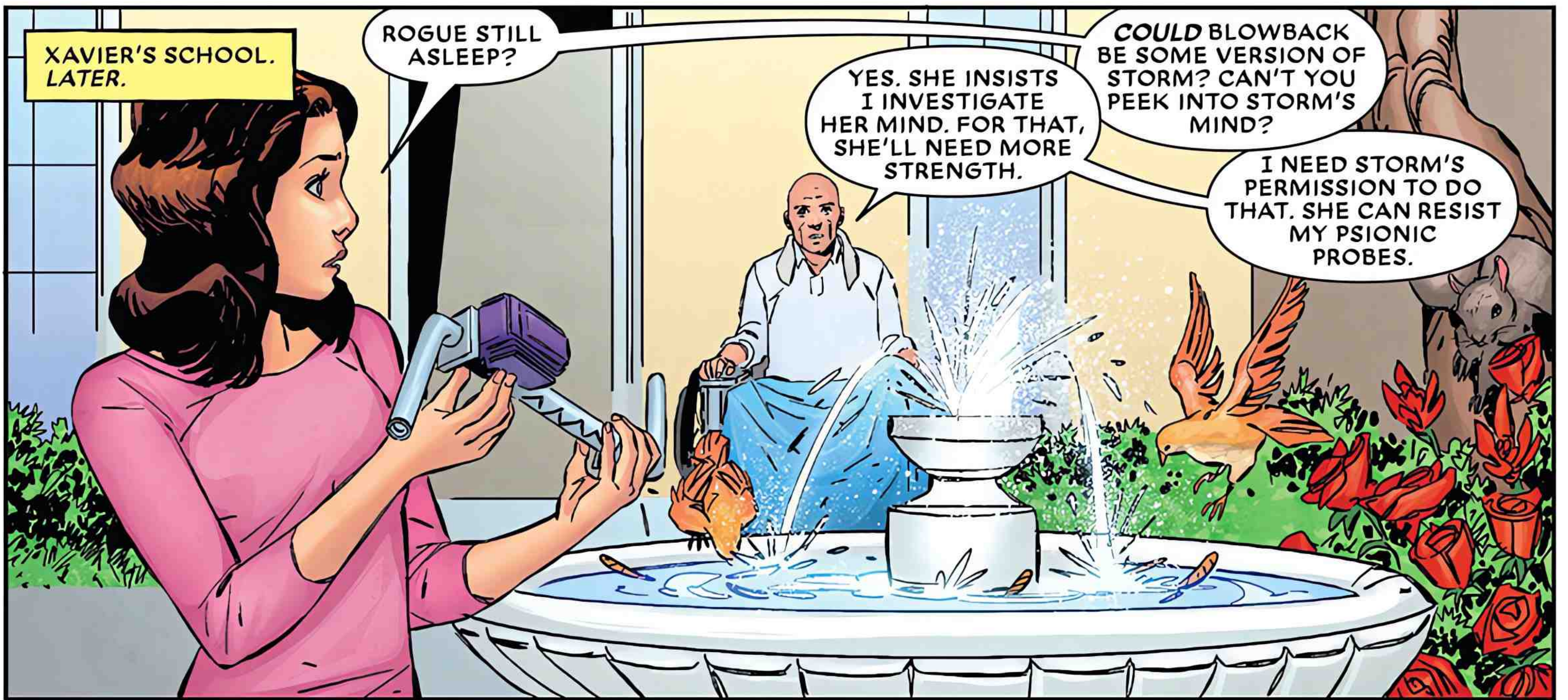
REWARD A BULLY? NEVER.

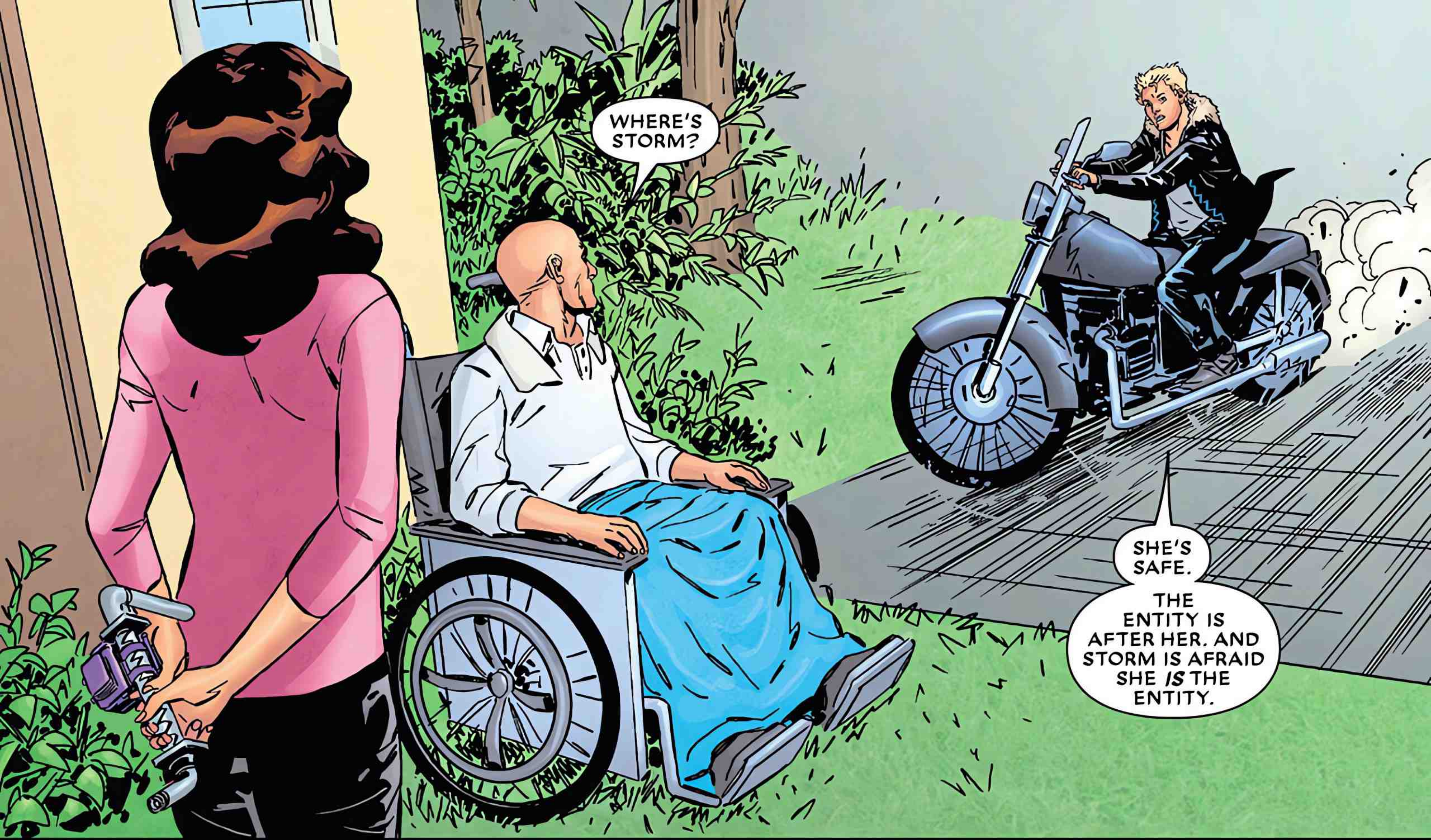


YOUR RIDE'S HERE.

THE BIG BAD X-MEN, SENDING A S.W.A.T. TEAM TO A TEA PARTY.

THAT'S YOUR NEW FAMILY? YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND ME, LITTLE ANNA MARIE.





WHERE'S STORM?

SHE'S SAFE.

THE ENTITY IS AFTER HER. AND STORM IS AFRAID SHE IS THE ENTITY.



LIAR.

DON'T WORRY, LOGAN. YOU WON. I'M LEAVING. AND I'M NOT COMING BACK.

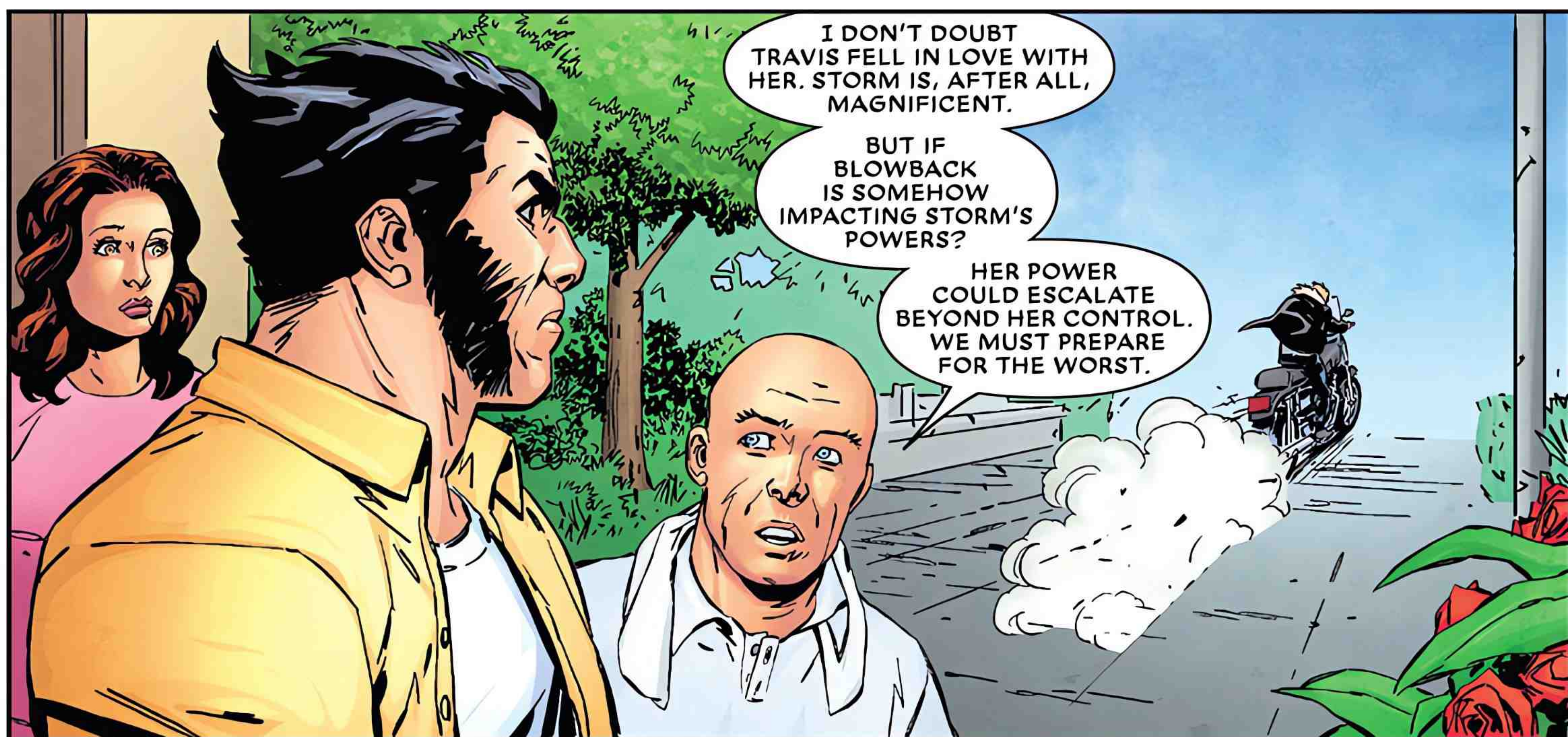


I LOVE HER. I ASKED HER TO LET ME TAKE HER AWAY, SOMEWHERE SAFE.

I'M STILL HOPING SHE SAYS YES. BUT I ALSO KNOW SHE NEEDS TO BE WITH HER FAMILY.

WITH YOU.

THAT'S RIGHT, BUB. SHE'LL DECIDE WHAT SHE WANTS. NOW BEAT IT.



I DON'T DOUBT TRAVIS FELL IN LOVE WITH HER. STORM IS, AFTER ALL, MAGNIFICENT.

BUT IF BLOWBACK IS SOMEHOW IMPACTING STORM'S POWERS?

HER POWER COULD ESCALATE BEYOND HER CONTROL. WE MUST PREPARE FOR THE WORST.



TRAVIS' BOATHOUSE.

THAT FIRE WARMED THE PLACE UP.

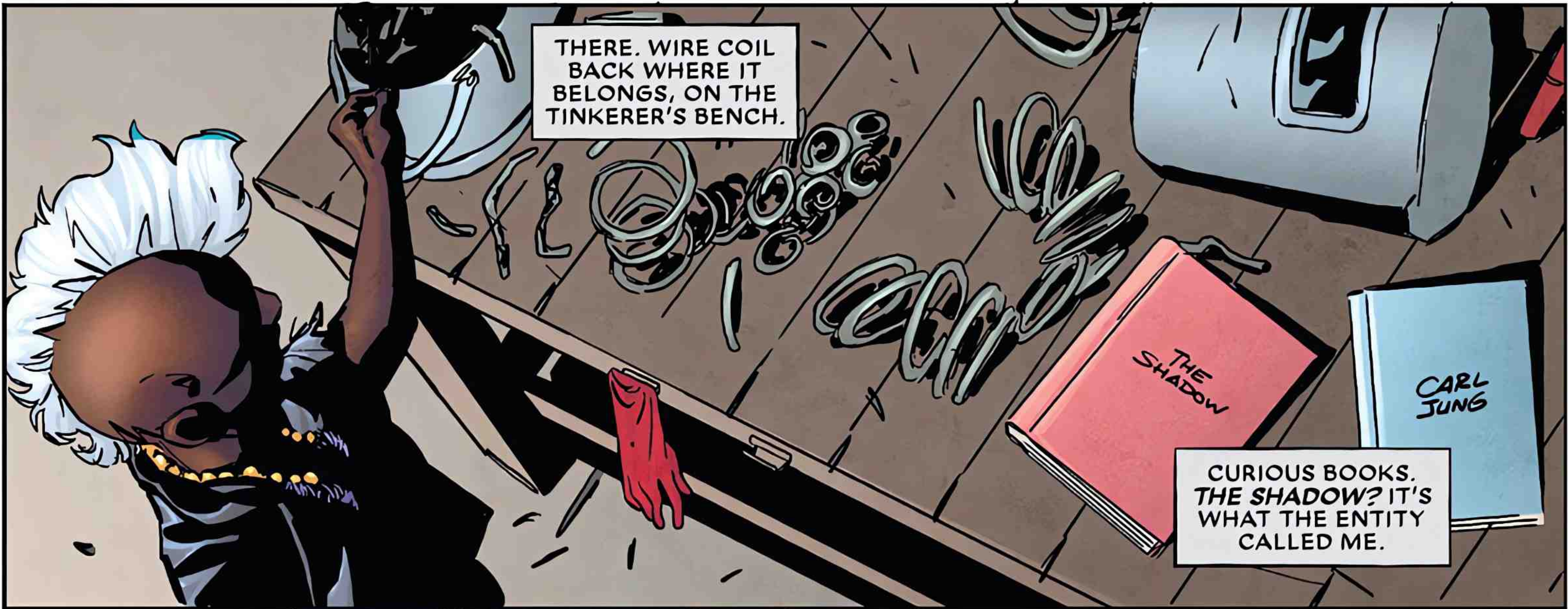
IS THE CHILL I FEEL FROM THE WEATHER? OR FROM FEAR?

AM I BRAVE ENOUGH TO LEAVE THE X-MEN FOR THIS SURPRISING NEW LOVE?



LOGAN CLEARLY DOESN'T LIKE TRAVIS. DO THE REST OF THE X-MEN FEEL THAT WAY TOO?

ASHES ARE GOOD FOR ROSEBUSHES. BUT NOT THIS WIRE.



THERE. WIRE COIL BACK WHERE IT BELONGS, ON THE TINKERER'S BENCH.

CURIOUS BOOKS. THE SHADOW? IT'S WHAT THE ENTITY CALLED ME.



AND THIS ONE...

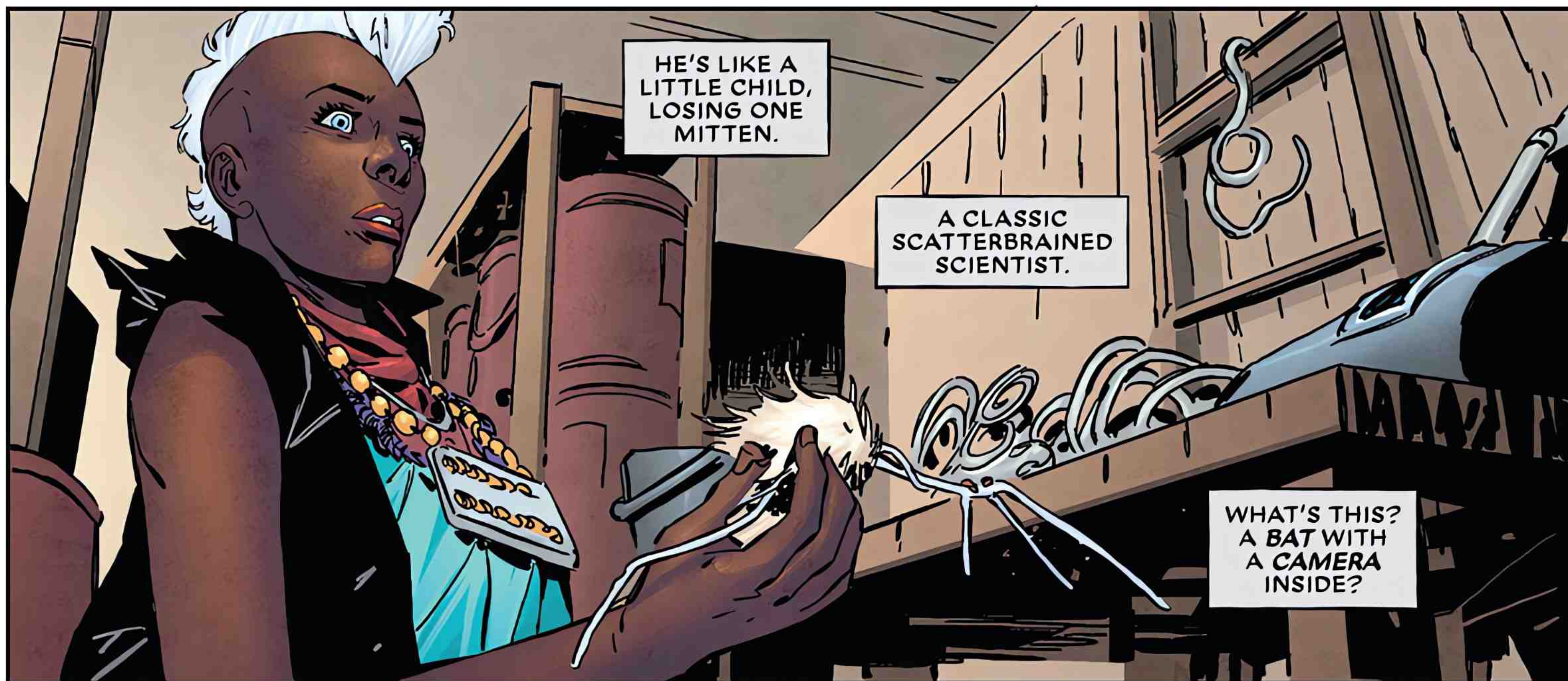
"A MAN WHO IS POSSESSED BY HIS SHADOW IS ALWAYS STANDING IN HIS OWN LIGHT AND FALLING INTO HIS OWN TRAPS..."

A CARL JUNG QUOTE. I SHOULD READ THIS BOOK.



TRAVIS LOST
ONE OF HIS
WELDING
GLOVES.

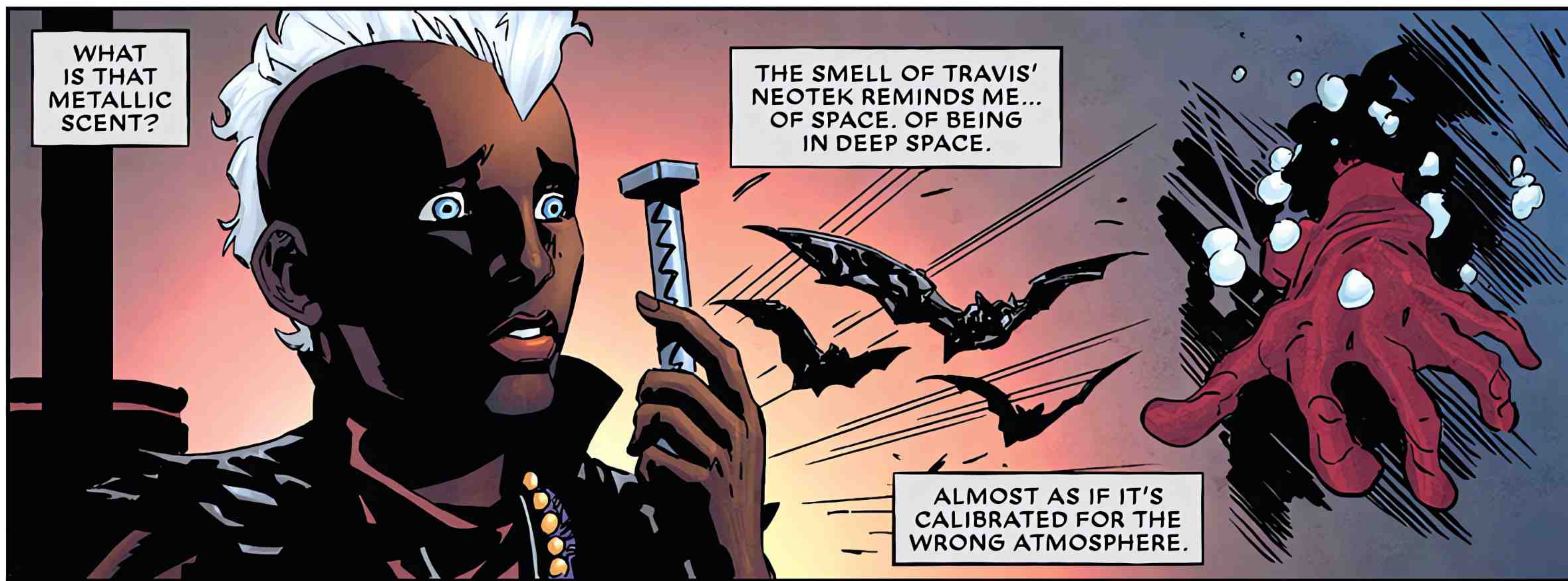
DIDN'T I SEE ONE IN
THE OCEAN? I GUESS
HE LIKES TO TINKER
ON THE BEACH.



HE'S LIKE A
LITTLE CHILD,
LOSING ONE
MITTEN.

A CLASSIC
SCATTERBRAINED
SCIENTIST.

WHAT'S THIS?
A BAT WITH
A CAMERA
INSIDE?



WHAT
IS THAT
METALLIC
SCENT?

THE SMELL OF TRAVIS'
NEOTEK REMINDS ME...
OF SPACE. OF BEING
IN DEEP SPACE.

ALMOST AS IF IT'S
CALIBRATED FOR THE
WRONG ATMOSPHERE.

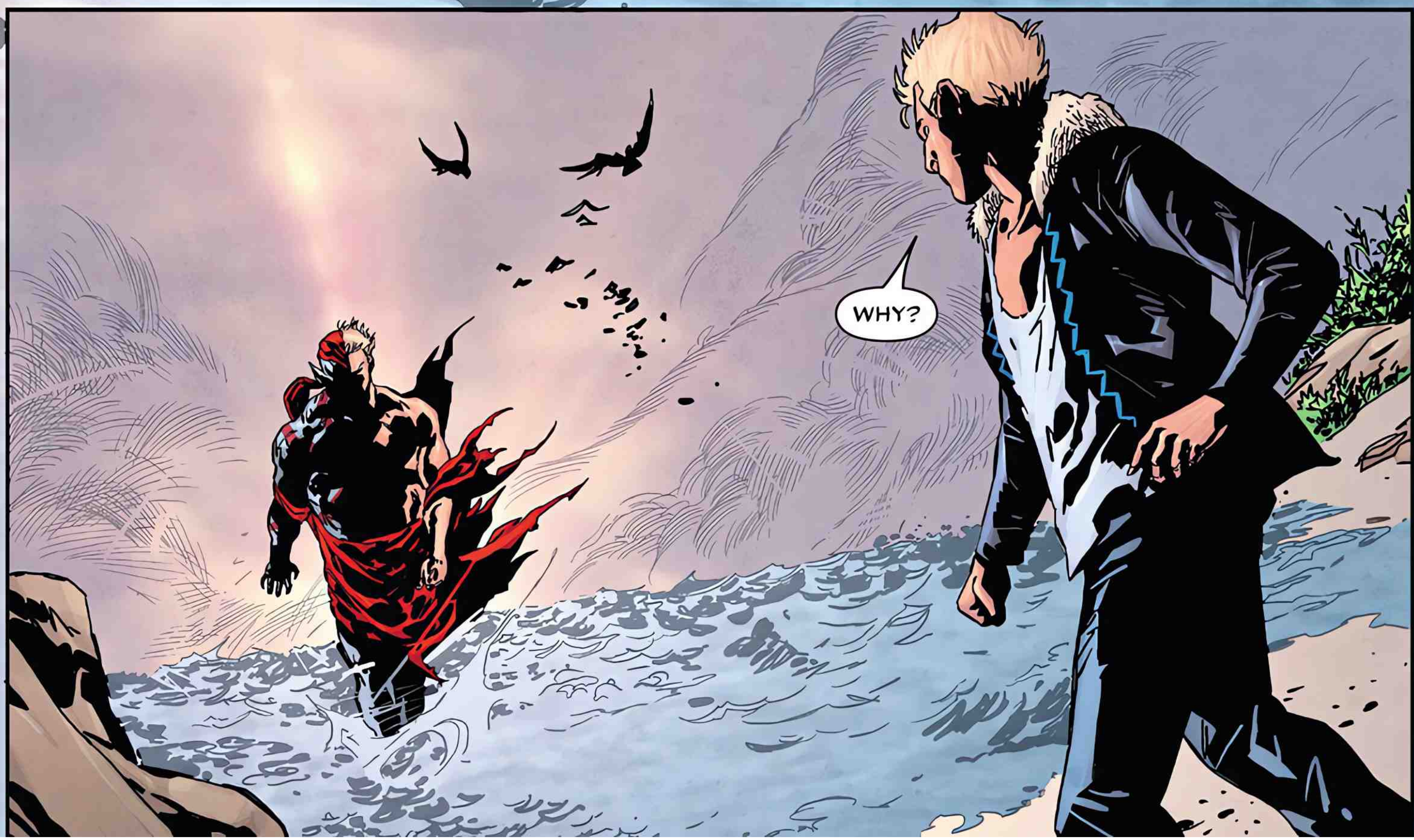
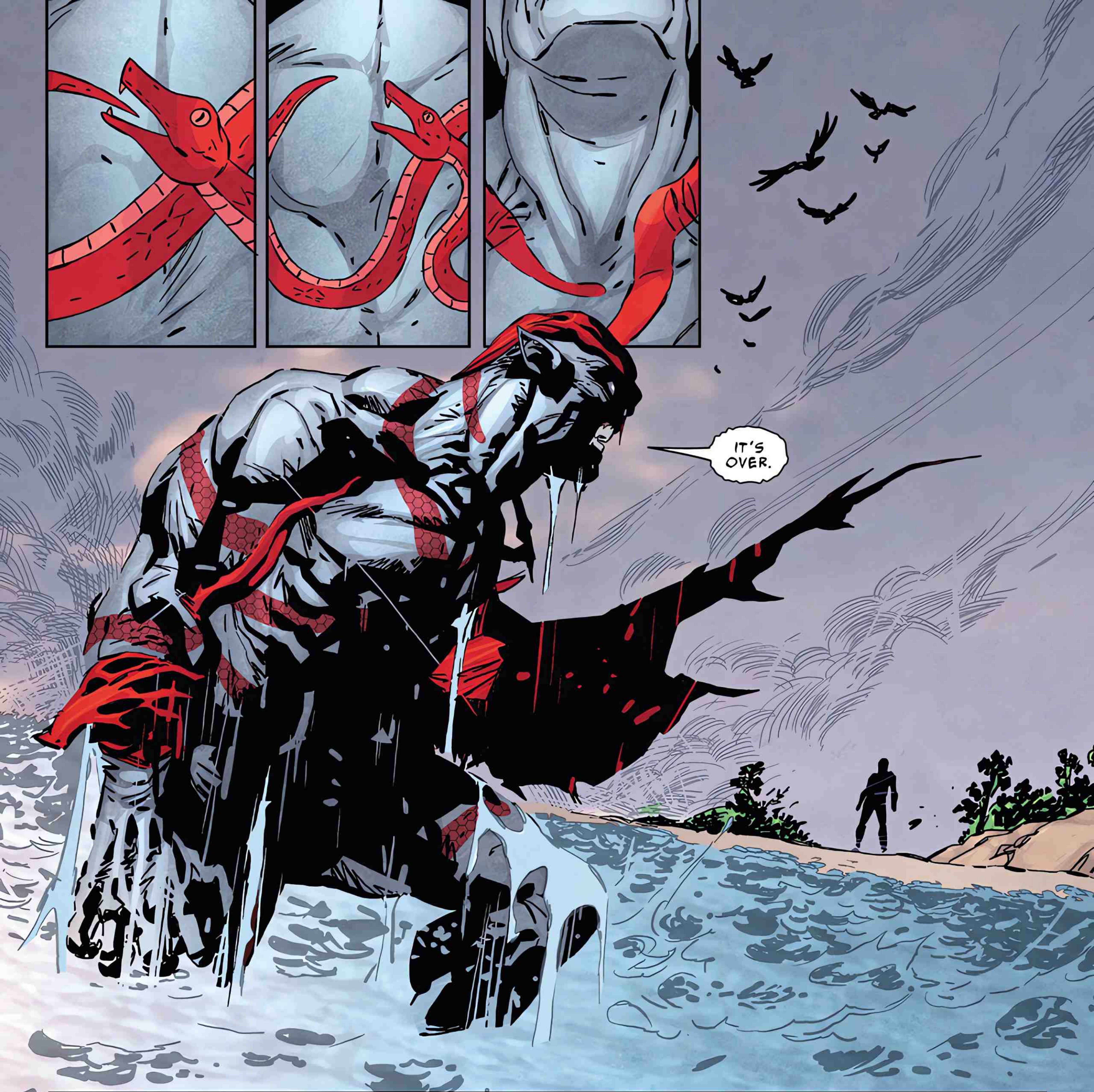


A MAN ON A
MOTORCYCLE,
BROKEN DOWN
ON THE SIDE
OF THE ROAD.

A MAN WHO
LOVES WEATHER
AS MUCH AS I DO.

A COINCIDENCE?
FATE? OR...NO.
NO, NO, NO, NO...

A SET-
UP?





I FELL IN LOVE WITH HER.

MEN. ALL SAPS.
FINE. IT'LL COST YOU.



IN MY ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF LIFE, I'VE MET MANY SHADOW ENTITIES.
DOPPELGÄNGERS. IT NEVER ENDS WELL FOR YOUR KIND.
YOUR OWN SHADOWS HAUNT YOU. STALK YOU. EVENTUALLY KILL YOU.



DON'T PATRONIZE ME, *MYSTIQUE*. I HAVE STUDIED IT ALL. THE NATIVE AMERICAN SPIRIT ANIMALS. THE MONSTER FROM THE ID, THE JEKYL AND HYDE OF IT ALL.
THERE IS NO ESCAPE FROM THE SUBCONSCIOUS, FOR ANY OF US.

I SHAPE-SHIFTED INTO YOU SO YOU COULD BE IN TWO PLACES AT ONCE. I LURED HER INTO TRUSTING YOU.

YOU THINK SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU? I WAS WITH HER MORE THAN YOU.

PERHAPS IT WAS *ME* SHE FELL IN LOVE WITH.



I NEGOTIATED LIKE A FOX. BROKERED YOUR PHONY NEOTEK INTO A FORTUNE. I KEPT UP MY END OF THE BARGAIN-- DID YOU?

DID YOU NEUTRALIZE STORM? NO.

YOU HAVE MILLIONS LEFT.



WHAT'S MY MONEY DOING IN YOUR POCKET?



YOU PROMISED YOU'D TRAP STORM ON YOUR NEW ISLAND.

I'M NOT SURE SHE'LL GO WITH ME.



YOU CALL YOURSELF A GRIFTER? YOU'VE ONLY MANAGED TO GRIFT YOURSELF.



WITH CYCLOPS OFF ON A TRIP, PHOENIX DEAD, ROGUE IN MY HIP POCKET, YOU ONLY HAD ONE THING TO DO.

STEAL STORM'S HEART AND TUCK HER AWAY. WITH THE X-MEN SHATTERED AND LEADERSHIP SPLIT, OPPOSITION TO MY PLANS ARE GONE.

MAKE IT HAPPEN.



WHEN STORM FINDS OUT I LIED TO HER, SHE'LL LEAVE ME.

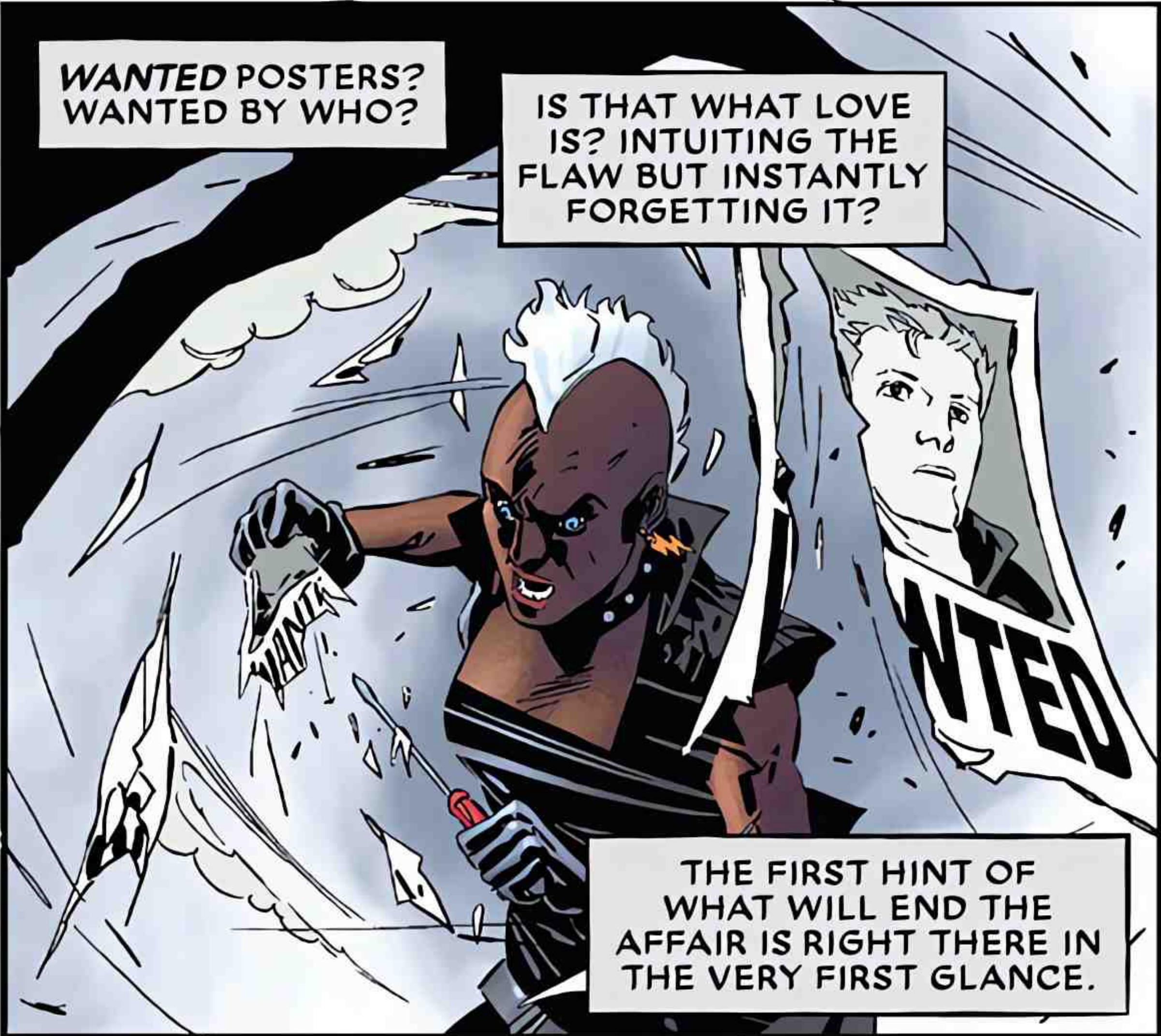
FIRST RULE OF THE HUSTLE: NEVER FALL FOR YOUR MARK.

OR THE BLOWBACK'S ON YOU.



THAT FIRST MOMENT I MET TRAVIS. THAT JACKET HE FLIPPED OPEN TO SHOW ME HIS WARES.

LIKE A STREET HUSTLER SELLING FAKE ROLEX WATCHES. I REMEMBER I JOKED: "SNAKE OIL SALESMAN?"



WANTED POSTERS? WANTED BY WHO?

IS THAT WHAT LOVE IS? INTUITING THE FLAW BUT INSTANTLY FORGETTING IT?

THE FIRST HINT OF WHAT WILL END THE AFFAIR IS RIGHT THERE IN THE VERY FIRST GLANCE.



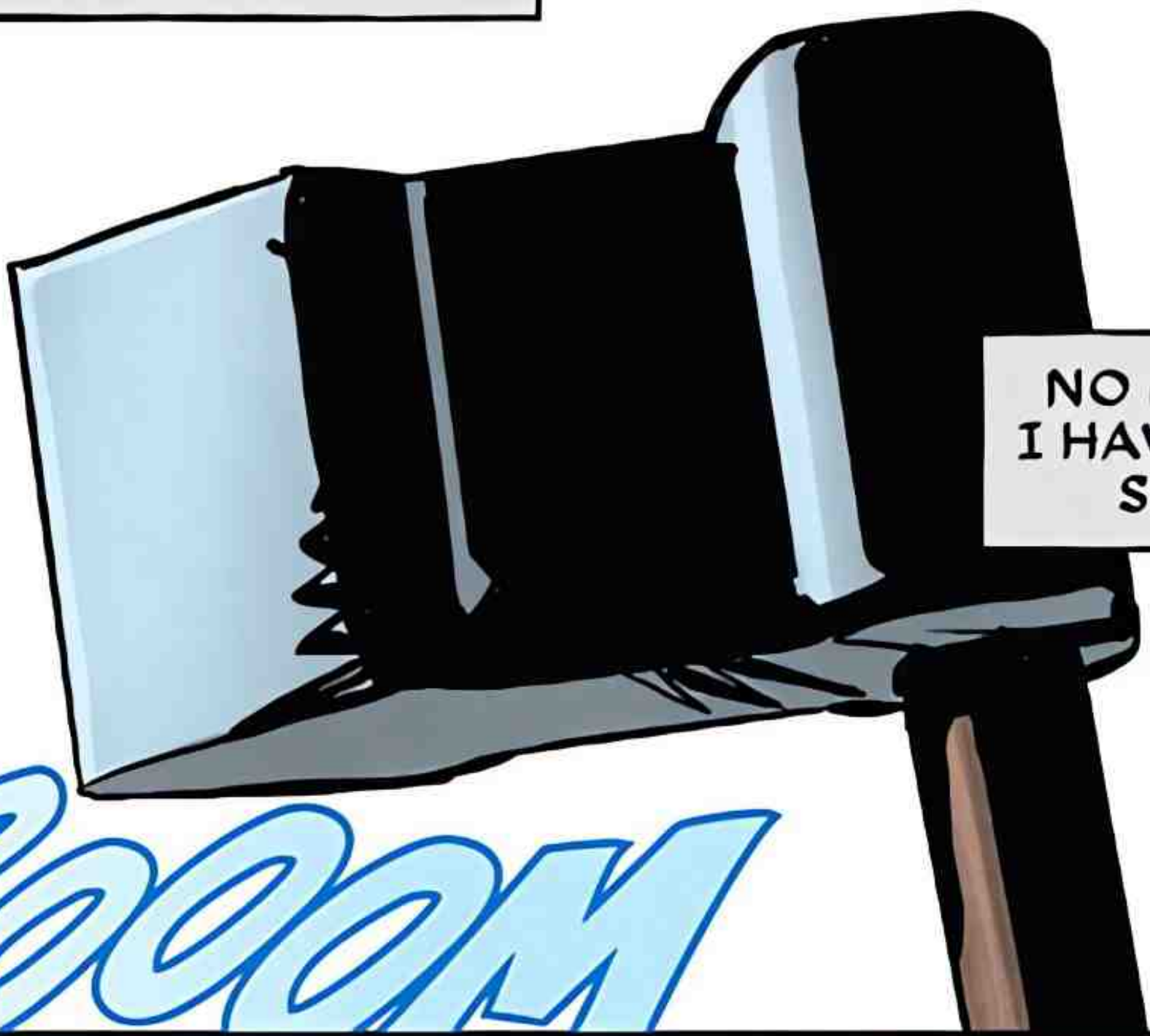
I'M A FOOL. LOVE SWOOPED IN, AND I TURNED A BLIND EYE TO MY OWN INTUITION.



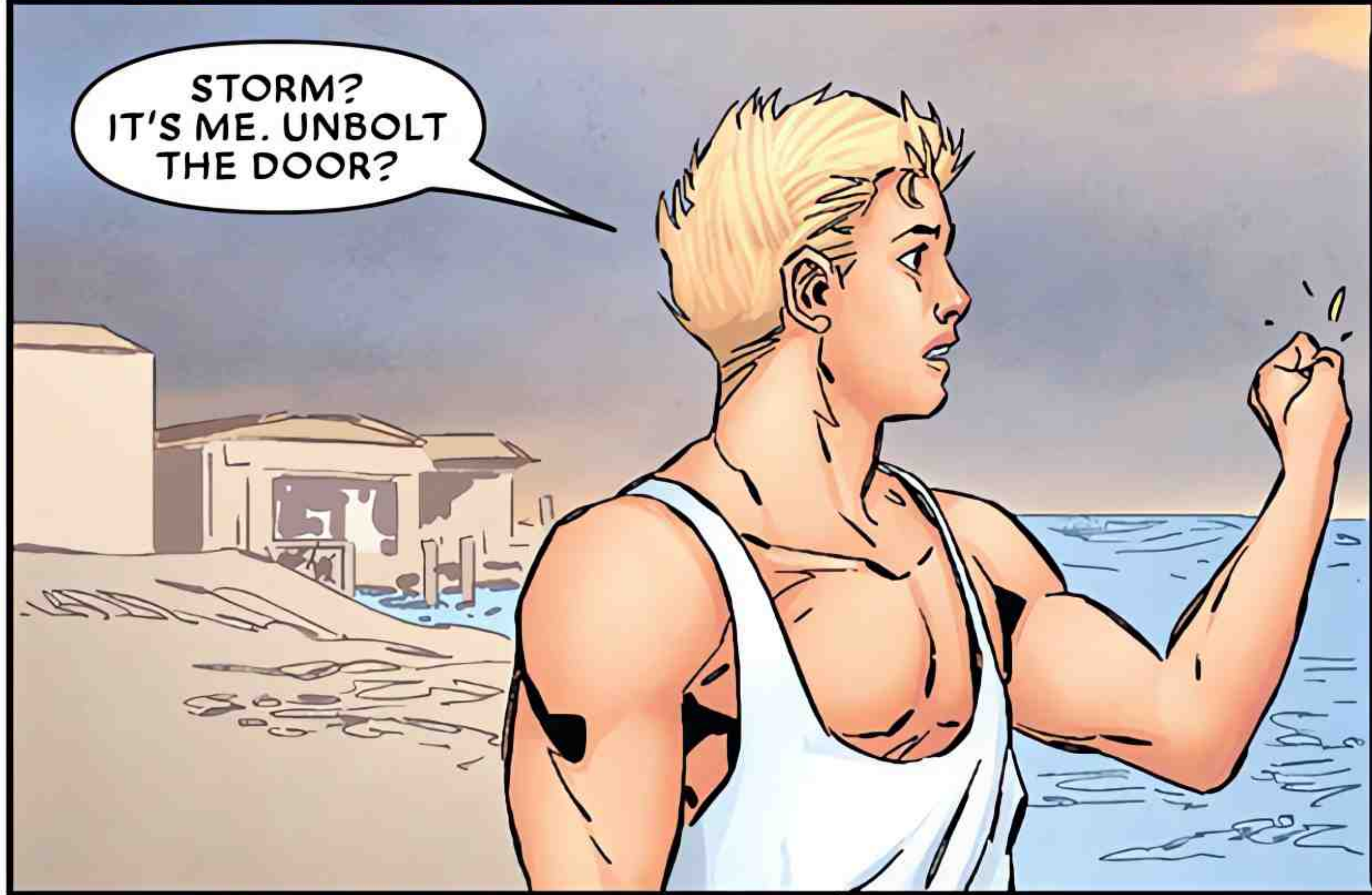
A FEW WORDS OF GERMAN TO ENCHANT KURT. FLIRT WITH ROGUE, SEDUCE THEM ALL.

TRAVIS. SO MUCH CHARM. SO MUCH CHARISMA.

CAN'T TRUST MY POWERS. THEY'RE OUT OF MY CONTROL.

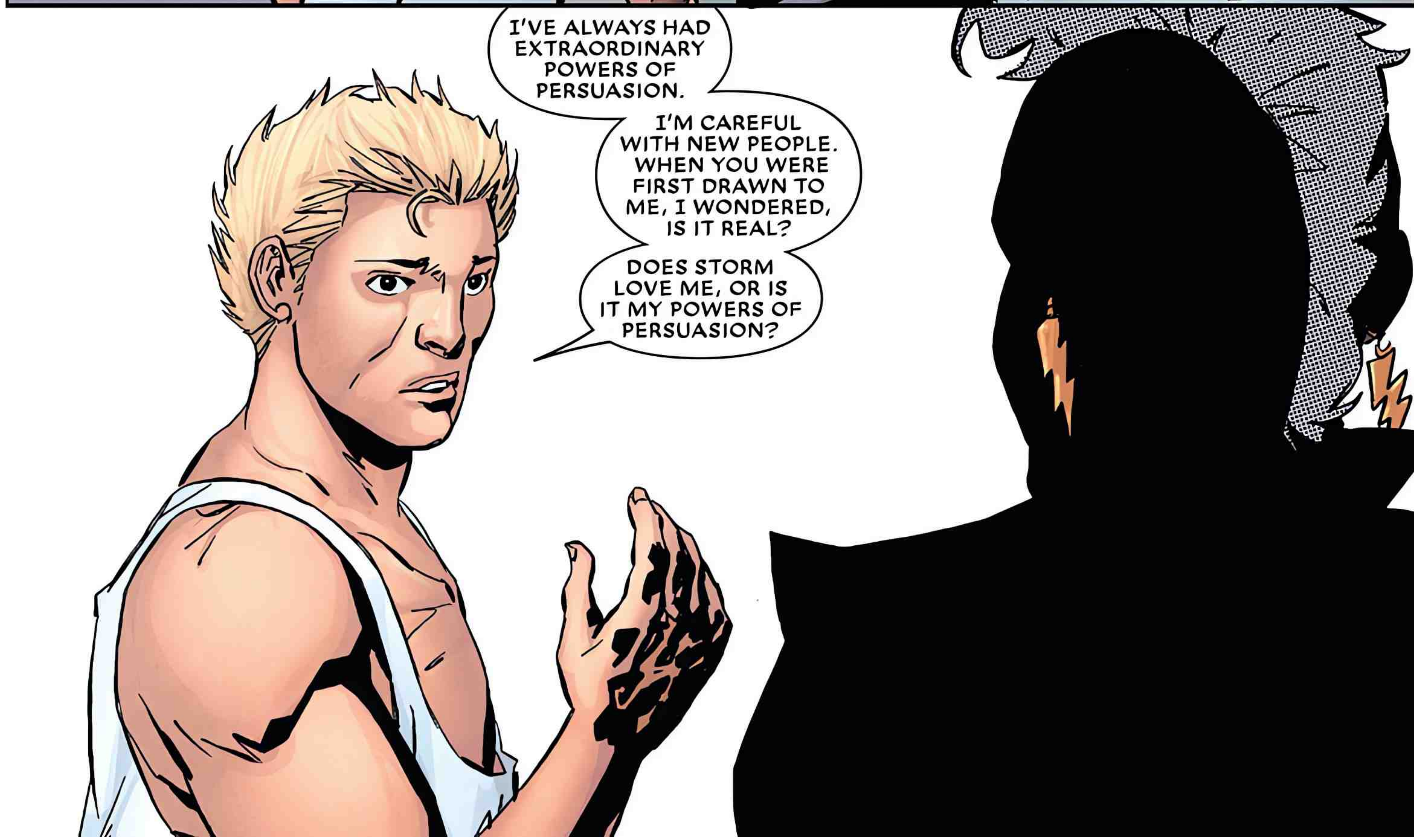


NO MATTER. I HAVE OTHER SKILLS.



STORM? IT'S ME. UNBOLT THE DOOR?







ANOTHER TRICK? ANOTHER LIE? YOU POOR MAN. A MESSY BUCKET OF GUILT.

I FOUND YOUR **WANTED** POSTERS. AN INTER-GALACTIC BOUNTY ON YOUR HEAD? YOU USED ME. LIED.

NO! I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU. YOU AND ME, WE CARE ABOUT THE SAME THINGS. THIS IS **REAL LOVE**.



WHAT ABOUT ALL THE WALLETS YOU'VE STOLEN? ALL THE PEOPLE YOU'VE HURT IN FIGHTS?

FOR EVERY STORM YOU PULLED FROM THE SKY, HOW DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WASN'T SWEEPED UP AND AWAY EVERY TIME?



I DON'T KNOW. YOU'RE NOT WRONG ABOUT THAT. BUT WE BOTH KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT.

PLEASE. WALK AWAY. DO NOT THREATEN ME, OR ELSE.

OR ELSE WHAT? I AM NOT AFRAID OF YOU.



YOU'RE A **WANTED MAN**. WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?

SHUT UP! IF IT KNOWS THEY'RE AFTER US, IT WILL TAKE OVER!

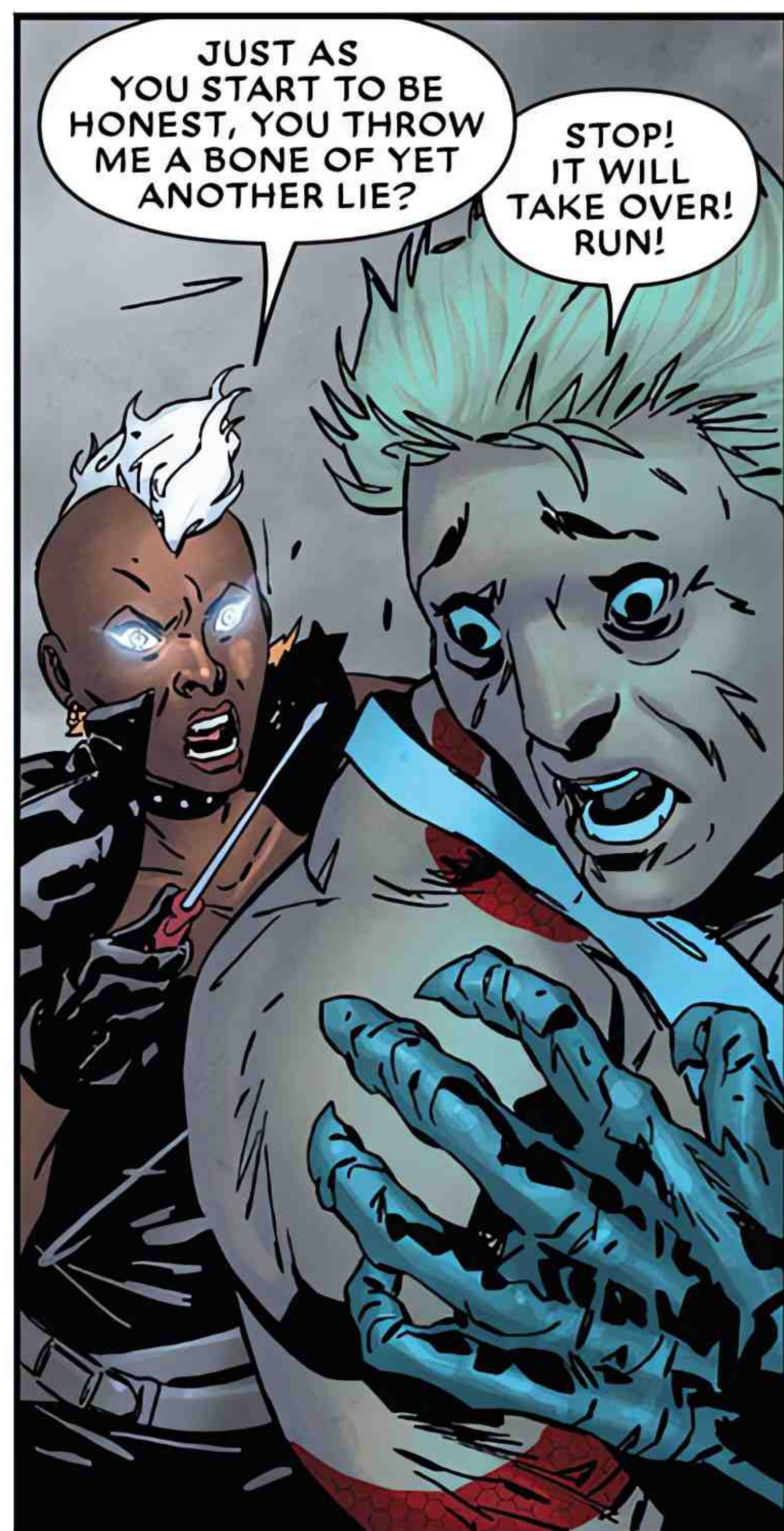
IT? WHAT IS IT?

BLOWBACK.



BLOWBACK? HOW WILL THAT MONSTER HEAR US?

IT HEARS EVERYTHING. IT TRICKED ME. IT TOOK ME OVER AND FORCED ME TO DO THINGS.



JUST AS YOU START TO BE HONEST, YOU THROW ME A BONE OF YET ANOTHER LIE?

STOP! IT WILL TAKE OVER! RUN!

IT IS TOO LATE.

YOU YANKED ME OUT. HE IS WEAK. I AM THE STRONG ONE NOW.

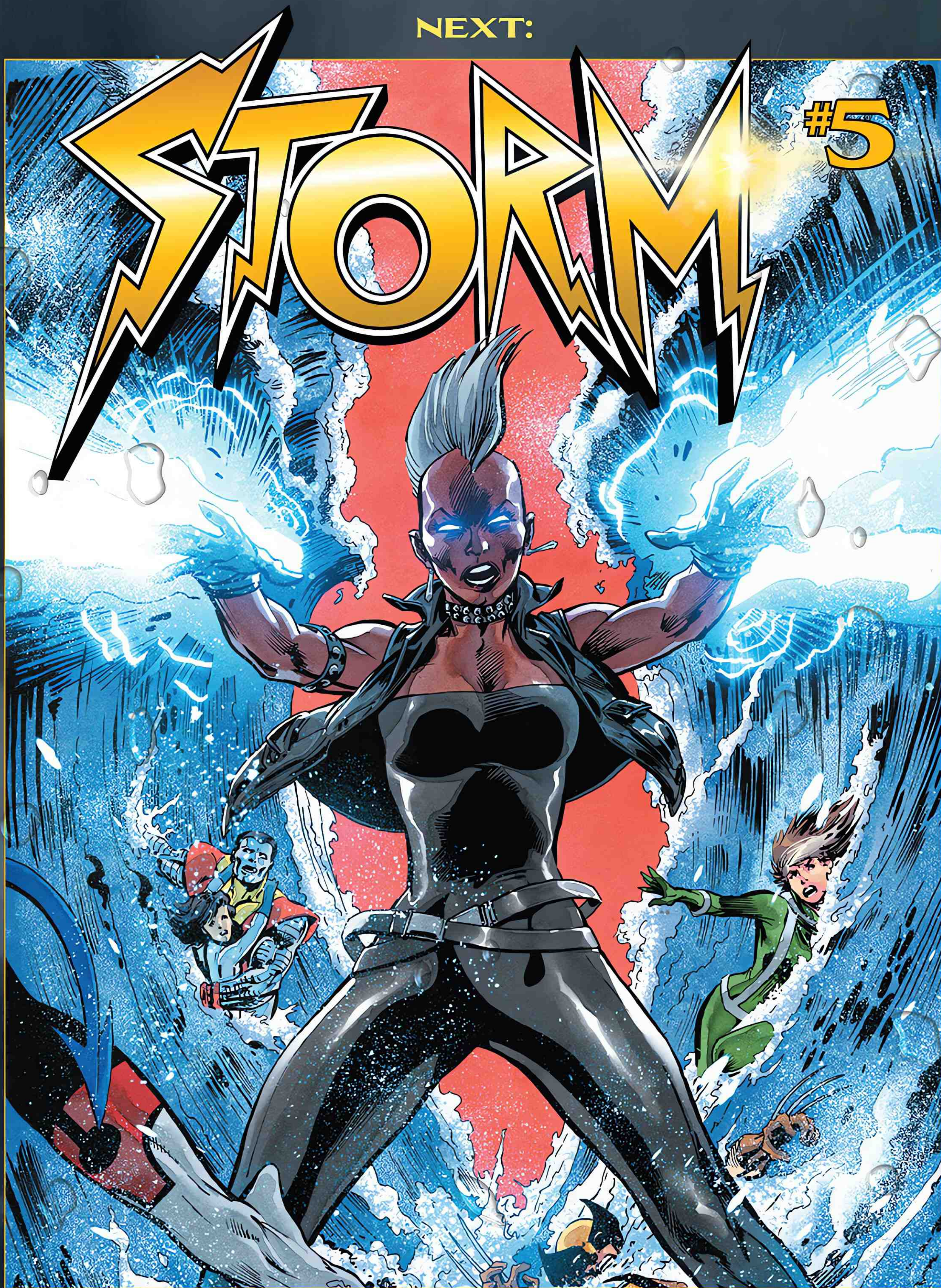
YOU SAY WE ARE WANTED BY INTERGALACTIC POLICE?

YOU WILL HELP US ESCAPE.



NEXT ISSUE:
GRIFT.

NEXT:



TEAM STORM WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU! SEND LETTERS TO [MHEROES@MARVEL.COM](mailto:mheroes@marvel.com) MARKED "OKAY TO PRINT" FOR A CHANCE TO SEE YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED IN FUTURE ISSUES!



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